浮世艶草紙

～うきよつやぞうし～

八月薫◆篁千夏

UNIVO PRESENTED BY
KAORU HAZUKI
CHINATSU TAKAMI

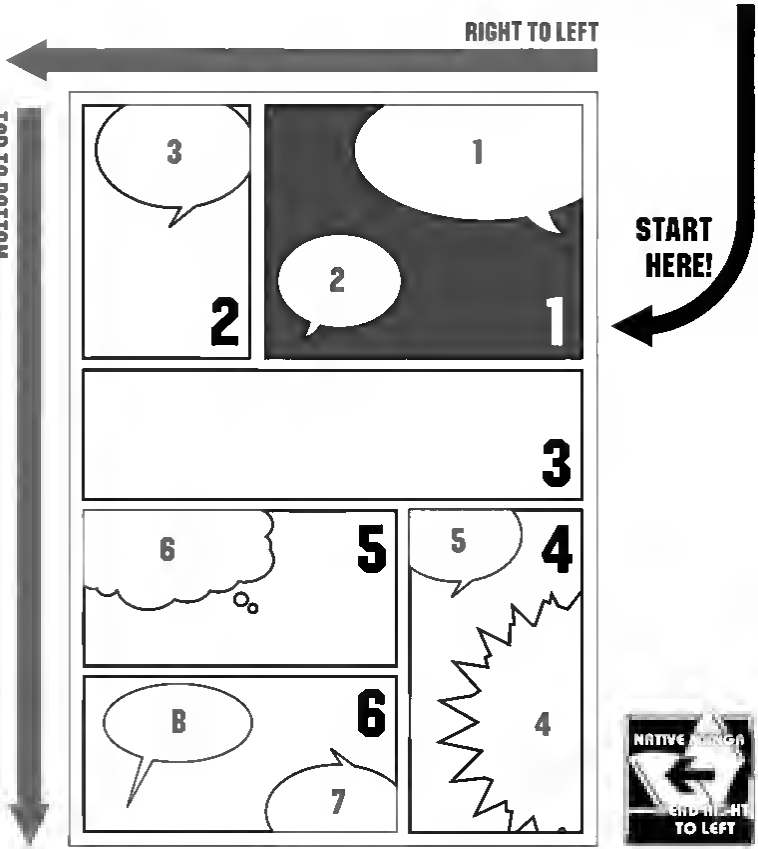
1 AMOROUS WOMEN OF THE FLOATING WORLD: SEX IN OLD TOKYO VOL. 1

PARENTAL ADVISORY EXPLICIT CONTENT

SPコミックス

THIS GRAPHIC NOVEL IS READ IN ITS NATIVE FORMAT

READ EACH PANEL
FROM RIGHT TO LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM
SEE HOW IT'S DONE BELOW!



浮世艶草子

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八月薫

原作 篁千夏

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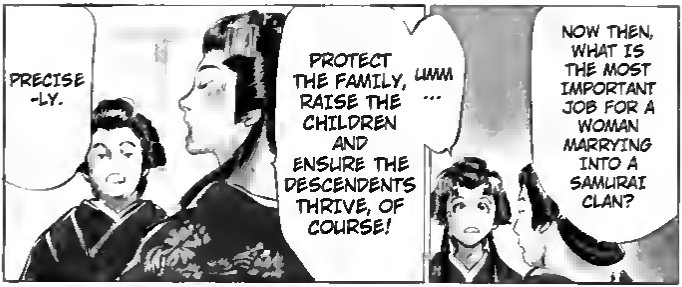
CHAPTER 1
LESSONS IN HARMONY
THERE'S BARELY A MONTH LEFT UNTIL YOU WILL LEAVE US TO BE MARRIED.
IF IT WERE POSSIBLE I WOULD'VE WANTED MY BELOVED NURSE TO COME WITH ME TO MY HUSBAND'S HOUSE.
I AM ALREADY OLD A YOUNGER PERSON WILL FILL THAT ROLE WONDERFULLY
NURSE ...
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.
YOU HONOR ME, MISTRESS ...

CHAPTER 1:
LESSONS IN HARMONY
◉第一話◉
和合指南

BY THE WAY, NURSE..
YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU WOULD TEACH ME SOMETHING IMPORTANT TODAY..
WHAT COULD IT POSSIBLY BE?
MY TEA CEREMONY AND MUSIC ARE ABOVE AVERAGE, BUT-
ARE YOU GOING TO TEACH ME NEEDLE-WORK AS WELL?
SUCH TEDIOUS MATTERS ARE BETTER LEFT TO YOUR ATTENDANTS.
THIS IS SOME-THING ELSE.


NOW THEN, WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB FOR A WOMAN MARRYING INTO A SAMURAI CLAN?
UMM ...
PROTECT THE FAMILY, RAISE THE CHILDREN AND ENSURE THE DESCENDENTS THRIVE, OF COURSE!
PRECISE -LY.

THE WIFE OF THE HOUSE GIVES BIRTH TO THE HEIR. AS THE SAYING GOES, NO CHILD AFTER THREE YEARS MEANS DIVORCE.
THERE ARE MANY FIRST WIVES WHO FAIL TO GIVE BIRTH, THEN IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD ARE LOOKED DOWN UPON BY THE COMMON WOMAN WHO GIVES BIRTH TO AN HEIR, AND SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES IN THE SHADOWS

MY MOTHER WAS LIKE THAT BEFORE SHE DIED...
MATSUNOKATA, THE CONCUBINE WHO GAVE BIRTH TO MY LITTLE BROTHER, ALWAYS LOOKED DOWN ON HER..

ERR ...
BY THE WAY, NURSE ..
HOW DO I MAKE A CHILD?
WHEN I MARRY I MUST GIVE BIRTH TO AN HEIR!
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT!
PLEASE LOOK AT THIS.
?
THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT OUR LESSON SHALL BE TODAY.
HE HAS A TAIL!
I ONLY MEAN, THIS MAN ON THE LEFT—
IS THIS A PICTURE OF A MONSTER?
DOES IT LOOK LIKE A MONSTER?

THAT IS NOT A TAIL.
IT IS THE MAN'S PHALLUS... IN SIMPLER TERMS, A PENIS.
I'VE SEEN MY LITTLE BRO-THER'S PENIS TONS OF TIMES, BUT—
IT DIDN'T LOOK NEARLY AS HORRIBLE AS THIS, AND IT DIDN'T JUT UP LIKE THAT EITHER!
WHEN IT COMES TIME FOR AN ADULT MAN TO UNITE, IT HARDENS AND POINTS UPWARD...
NURSE.. HOW DOES IT FEEL?
I'M SORRY, I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED SOMETHING FROM LONG AGO .
BUT WHY DOES THE PENIS GET THIS WAY?
TO POUR THE MAN'S SEED INTO THE WOMAN'S VAGINA.
TO HAVE A BABY, I—I HAVE TO PUT THIS THING INSIDE ME!?
YOU LOOK HAPPY FOR SOME REASON.
EEEEK! HOW DISGUST-ING!
FLAP

YOU MUST NOT LOOK AWAY.
WITH NO UNION THERE IS NO CLAN!
COMPARED TO REGULAR UKIYO-E, THEY WERE GORGEOUS WORKS, SOME EVEN MADE WITH GOLD OR SILVER PAINT, SO THEY WERE ALSO USED AS ONE TOOL TO PREPARE FOR WEDDINGS.
EROTIC "SHUNGA" WOODBLOCK PRINTS LIKE THESE, ALSO CALLED "MAKURA-E," WERE SPECIALLY ORDERED FROM ARTISTS BY NOBLE FAMILIES FOR USE IN THE SEX EDUCATION OF THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS.

ANY PENIS, NO MATTER HOW LARGE, IS NOTHING IN COMPARI-SON.
THE VAGINA IS ALSO THE HOLE FROM WHICH YOU WILL GIVE BIRTH.
...BUT... WOULDN'T I DIE IF I PUT SOME-THING THIS BIG INSIDE ME?
RUSTLE
I SEE... IT'S NATURAL FOR THE SEED TO BE POURED IN AND, AFTER CARRYING A CHILD TO TERM, FOR IT TO BE BORN.
BETTER TO EXPERI-ENCE THAN STUDY ...
LET'S MOVE ON TO SOME PRAC-TICE.

...THE FIRST TIME WILL BE PAINFUL.
GULP.
SO IT WILL HURT AFTER ALL.
WILL I BE ALL RIGHT?
OH? WHAT IS IT?
THERE IS A WAY TO MITIGATE THE PAIN A LITTLE.
WHAT KIND OF WAY?
IF YOUR LORD IS ALSO UNFAMILIAR WITH IT...
THEN HE MAY SOMETIMES PLUNGE INTO YOU BEFORE YOU ARE READY.
WILL I BE ABLE TO ENDURE IT?
SHFF...
CLAP! CLAP!

AYANO HERE WILL PLAY THE PART OF THE LORD.
RUSTLE...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, MY PRINCESS KIKU...

IF YOUR LORD LAYS ATOP YOU LIKE THIS...
PUT SOME SALIVA ONTO YOUR HAND, MAKING SURE HE DOES NOT NOTICE, AND USE IT TO DAMPEN YOUR GENITALS.
RUB RUB
ON THE DAY OF THE CONSUMMATION, YOU OUGHT TO CUT YOUR PUBIC HAIR SHORT.
WHY IS THAT?
WHY WOULD I HAVE TO CUT MY HAIR?
WHEN YOUR LORD PRESSES HIS PENIS AGAINST YOU LIKE THIS...
IF YOUR HAIR IS TOO LONG, IT MAY HURT WHEN YOU PULL HIM IN.
OH, I SEE!
INSIDE THE BEDROOM, YOU MUST ALWAYS BE MEEK, MY LADY.
I MUST NOT FIGHT HIM?
I WILL SUBMIT.

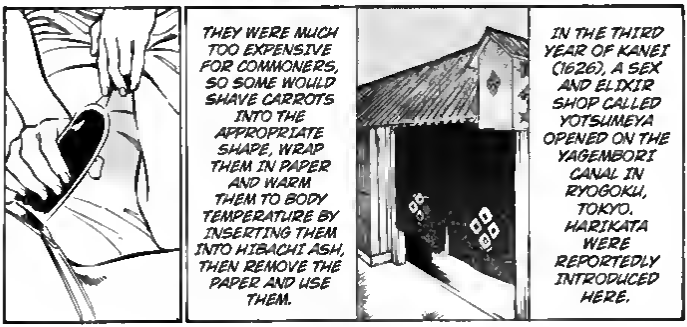
AS YOU GROW ACCUSTOMED TO YOUR UNION, IT WILL GRADUALLY BEGIN TO FEEL BETTER.
AH... NURSE ...
SOMETHING KEEPS TICKLING ME...
IT FEELS STRANGE ...

LOOK TO YOURSELF WITH LOVE.
THIS IS ALSO PART OF A HARMONIOUS LIFE.
I WONDER IF I CAN DO IT...
I FEEL SO UNCERTAIN.

THERE IS NO NEED TO PANIC.
DISCOVER THE JOYS OF YOUR UNION BIT BY BIT.

MM ...
A STRONG LORD MAY COME TO YOU TWO OR THREE TIMES IN ONE NIGHT, BUT DO NOT REFUSE HIM.
NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT, I MUST SUBMIT?
NGH ...
HAH ...
WHEN YOUR LORD COMES TO YOU THE SECOND TIME, GENTLY HOLD IT IN YOUR HAND...
AFTER LOVING HIM THE FIRST TIME, IF YOU LEAVE EVERYTHING UP TO HIM, HE WILL INEVITABLY GROW TIRED OF IT.
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
WELL, NOT QUITE, BUT SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
LIKE KAZUTOYO YAMANOU -CHI'S WIFE!
GRAB
IT IS PART OF YOUR ROLE AS HIS WIFE TO HELP REINVIGO-RATE HIM.

THE "HARIKATA" OF THE EDO PERIOD, ALSO CALLED A "MAN-STALK," "MAN-SHAPE," "MAN IN A BOX" AND "FALSE STALK," WERE LOVED BY WIDOWS AND WOMEN IN THE SHOGUN'S CHAMBERS, WHERE YOUNG WERE FORBIDDEN.
YOU MUST NOT GRIP IT TOO TIGHTLY.
CARESS IT AS IF STROKING A CAT'S NECK.
THEY WERE MOSTLY MADE OF WOOD OR LEATHER, BUT MORE EXPENSIVE ONES MADE USING BUFFALO HORNS OR TORTOISESHELL.

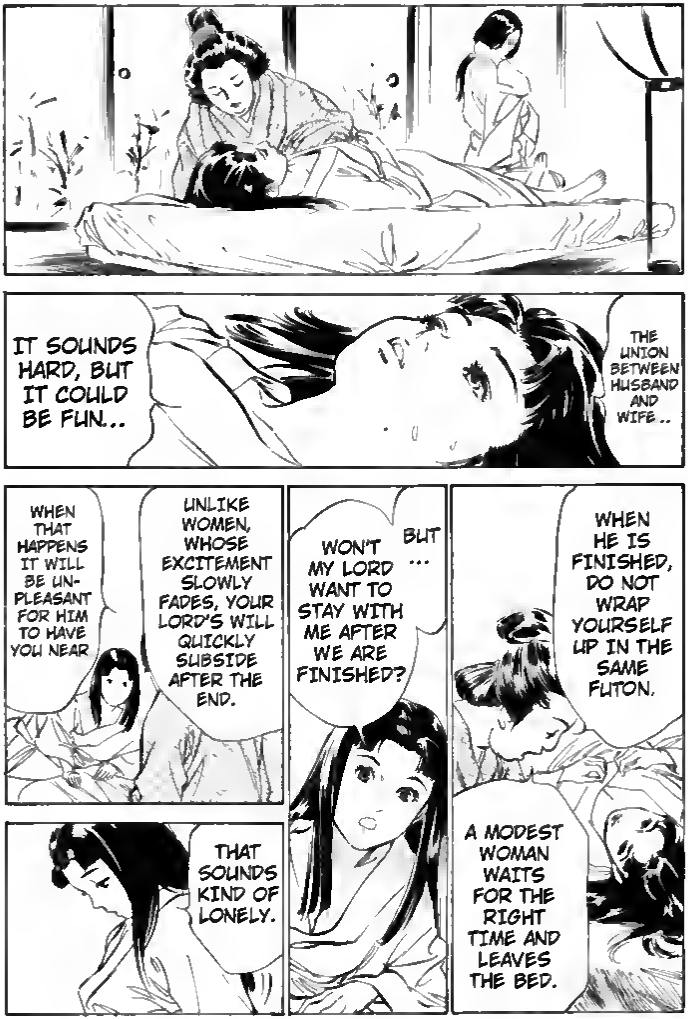

THEY WERE MUCH TOO EXPENSIVE FOR COMMONERS, SO SOME WOULD SHAVE CARROTS INTO THE APPROPRIATE SHAPE, WRAP THEM IN PAPER AND WARM THEM TO BODY TEMPERATURE BY INSERTING THEM INTO HIBACHI ASH, THEN REMOVE THE PAPER AND USE THEM.
IN THE THIRD YEAR OF KANEI (1626), A SEX AND ELIXIR SHOP CALLED YOTSUMEYA OPENED ON THE YAGENBORI CANAL IN RYOGOKU, TOKYO. HARIKATA WERE REPORTEDLY INTRODUCED HERE.

I KNOW THAT WHEN I RUB DOWN THERE IT FEELS GOOD, BUT...
WILL IT FEEL GOOD FOR MY LORD TOO?
THAT IS RIGHT. BUT SOME MAY NOT LIKE BEING STROKED BY HAND.
YOU WILL USE YOUR MOUTH.
MY MOUTH !?
WHAT DO I DO IN THAT CASE...
NURSE ?
BUT THIS IS WHERE HE PEES!
ISN'T IT DIRTY!?
IT CER-TAINLY IS NOT.
AFTER ALL, WOMEN TOO...
GO ON.
AH— AYANO!
WHAT ARE YOU —!?

DIRTY ...
S— STO...
THAT PLACE IS SO—
REALLY ...
IF YOU USE YOUR TONGUE TO PLAY WITH IT, IT WILL FEEL EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD, MY LADY.
NN...
MGH
NGGH ...
DO NOT DENY HIM!
IT IS INCREDIBLY PLEASURABLE FOR YOUR LORD TO ENTER YOUR MOUTH.

YOU MUST NEVER BITE!
TIGHTEN THE SPACE INSIDE YOUR MOUTH AND SLOWLY ROLL IT AROUND WITH YOUR TONGUE.
MN!
AAH...
NO, MY LADY, THAT IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH!
THE WIFE OF A SAMURAI FAMILY CANNOT GIVE IN TO HER OWN PLEASURE AND NEGLECT HER DUTIES!
NGMAAH!
MM...
THAT'S IT, MY LADY!

JUST LIKE A SAMURAI'S DAUGHTER!
SPLENDID!
GULP
GULP
...
NNGH ...!


THE UNION BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE..
IT SOUNDS HARD, BUT IT COULD BE FUN...
WHEN HE IS FINISHED, DO NOT WRAP YOURSELF UP IN THE SAME FUTON.
A MODEST WOMAN WAITS FOR THE RIGHT TIME AND LEAVES THE BED.
BUT ...
WON'T MY LORD WANT TO STAY WITH ME AFTER WE ARE FINISHED?
UNLIKE WOMEN, WHOSE EXCITEMENT SLOWLY FADES, YOUR LORD'S WILL QUICKLY SUBSIDE AFTER THE END.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS IT WILL BE UN-PLEASANT FOR HIM TO HAVE YOU NEAR
THAT SOUNDS KIND OF LONELY.

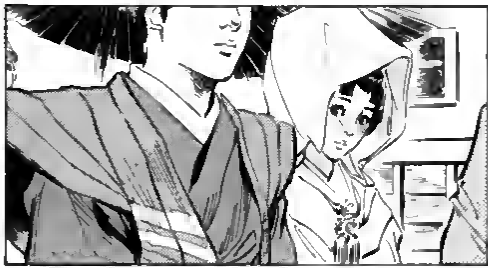
OH YES, AND MY LADY ...
YES, BUT HE IS YOUR LORD. ALSO ... IF HE WISHES TO CHEW TOBACCO, YOU SHOULD LEAVE.
AFTER YOU ARE FINISHED, YOUR LORD'S SEMEN WILL OVERFLOW OUT OF YOUR WOMB.
WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS PAPER ?
IN THE BED-ROOM, DON'T FORGET THIS...
MY LADY!
NO!
YOU MUST NOT MAKE SO MUCH NOISE !
ジュ
SHLUP
ジュ
SHLUP
!
LIKE THIS ?
TO DIRTY THE FUTON WOULD BE SHAME-FUL...
SO WIPE IT UP WITH THE PAPER.

TO MAKE SO MUCH NOISE WIPING UP THE SPILLED SEMEN WOULD RUIN THE MOOD.
RUSTLE RUSTLE
GET IN THE HABIT OF USING THE PAPER SILENTLY.
BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO COME OUT!
A MODEST SAMURAI'S WIFE CRINKLES UP THE PAPER AND USES IT GENTLY.
SHH
IF YOU RUB IT GENTLY LIKE THIS, YOU CAN COLLECT ALL OF THE OVERFLOWING SEMEN.
I HAVE RAISED YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS, MY LADY.
THAT YOU GIVE BIRTH TO AN HEIR IS MY ONLY WISH.
WOW, NURSE, YOU KNOW EVERY-THING!

I HAVE WRITTEN EVERYTHING YOU WILL NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MARITAL HARMONY IN THIS.
ON HARMONY
WHEN YOU ARE MARRIED PLEASE THINK OF ME WHEN YOU READ IT.
NURSE...
I WILL FOLLOW YOUR ADVICE AND I KNOW I'LL GIVE BIRTH TO A GREAT HEIR!

BECAUSE OF THIS SEX EDUCATION WAS MUCH MORE THOROUGH THAN AMONG COMMONERS.

CONTINUING THE FAMILY LINE IS A SAMURAI CLAN'S TOP PRIORITY.



THE BOOK ON MARITAL HARMONY GIVEN BY A FEMALE ATTENDANT TO THE DAUGHTER OF THE SHIMAZU WHEN SHE MARRIED INTO THE KISHU CLAN IN THE GENROKU ERA (1688-1704) STILL EXISTS TODAY.

THIS IS WRITTEN IN IT:

"TAKING BY THE MOUTH"
A METHOD OF SUCKING SEMEN INTO THE MOUTH. ALSO CALLED "LEWD LIPS," OR "TO DO IT WITH THE MOUTH." USUALLY OTHER THAN SAYING THIS WITH THE HAND, IN OTHER WORDS, WE TURN OUR BODY UPWARD TOWARD THE HUSBAND AND LIE DOWN, NEXT TO WHICH AND SQUAT AND WITH THE RIGHT HAND GRASP THE PENIS AND CARESS IT AND STROKE IT UP AND STROKE IT DOWN AND AT THE SAME TIME TAKE THE HEAD INTO THE MOUTH, THEN MOVE IT ABOUT WITH THE TIP OF THE TONGUE.

IN MEN'S SEMEN THERE IS ABOUT THE NOURISHMENT OF MILK OR EGGS, SO DO NOT THINK OF IT AS DIRTY.

THIS "WOMAN'S BEDROOM INSTRUCTION" BOOK THAT CONTAINS SUCH DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDES INVALUABLE INFORMATION ON THE REAL SEX LIVES OF THE HIGH-CLASS SAMURAI FAMILIES OF THE EDO PERIOD.
IF WHILE PERFORMING THE LEWD MOUTH, IF IT COMES OUT INTO THE MOUTH, IT IS NOURISHING, SO DO NOT THINK OF IT AS DIRTY BUT SWALLOW IT ALL.
AS I AM NAIVE AND KNOW NOTHING, PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
CLATTER

"LESSONS IN HARMONY" THE END

KONJAC
CHAPTER TWO
THE MAN IN THE BOX
こんにゃく
KONJAC
WELCOME BACK!
YOU SOUND ENTHUSIASTIC AS USUAL, OTAMI!
MY ENERGY IS THE ONLY THING I HAVE GOING FOR ME! HA HA HA!
CARRYING ANYTHING GOOD TODAY?
OH! IT'S MASA-GORO!
WE GOT EGG-PLANT AND WHITE MELON TODAY!

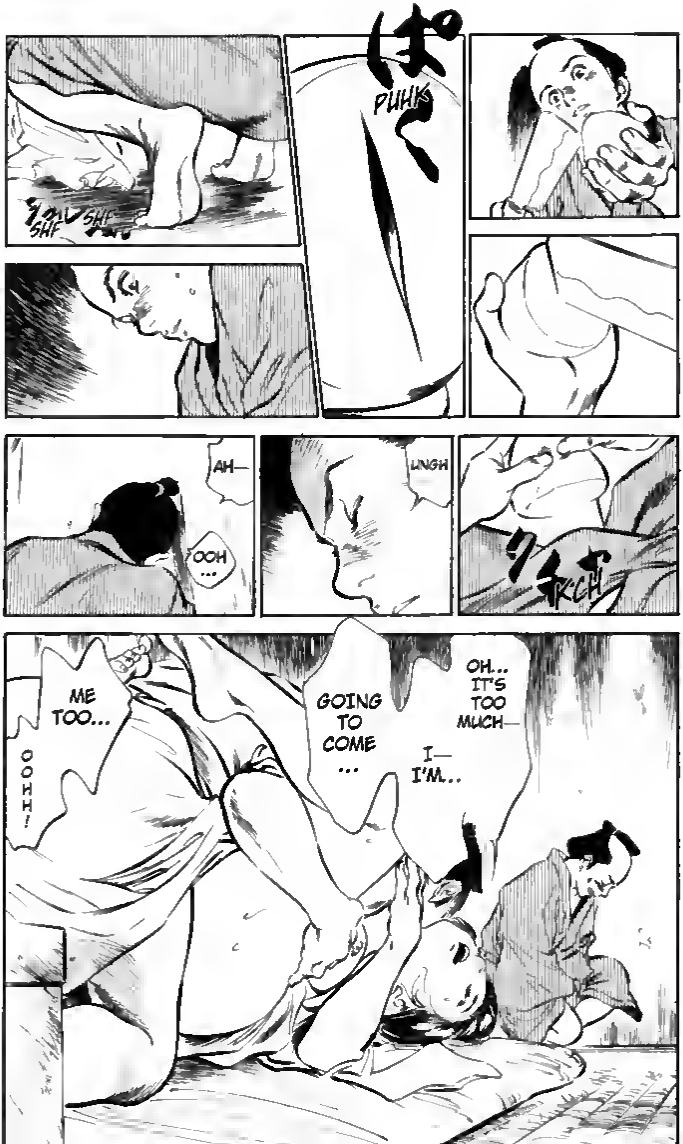
OH!
I LOVE EGG-PLANT!
I'LL TAKE TWO. AND... MAYBE SOME DAIKON RADISH.
THANKS A LOT!
CHAPTER TWO
THE MAN IN THE BOX
◉第二話◉
箱入男

*A GELATIN DERIVED FROM A ROOT USED IN JAPANESE COOKING

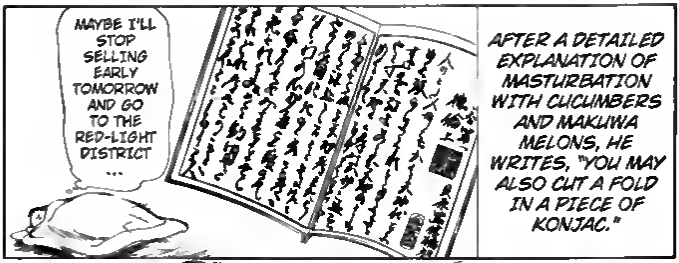
JUST SOME KONJAC WITH SUMISO* ...
AND THAT'S ALL I NEED.
I CAN'T TELL IF YOU LIKE THE KONJAC OR THE GIRL SELLING IT...
HEY, DON'T MAKE FUN OF THE CUSTO-MERS!
LOOK, YOU MADE MASA-GORO BLUSH!
NO... I JUST REALLY LIKE KONJAC...
WELL, I'M SORRY THEN!
HA HA HA HA

GLUG GLUG
FATHER, MOTHER ...
SALES WERE GOOD TODAY TOO.
GULP GULP
GULP
AND THIS KON-JAC ...
THAT REALLY HITS THE SPOT!
AHHHH!
PLUP
ONE MORE SLICE ...
REALLY IS MY FAVO-RITE!

PLAK
SSHHHH...
IT'S START-ED...
HEH HEH HEH
BUT I LOVE YOU TOO...
THUMP
AHHH...
AH— NOT THERE ...
WHEN YOU GET LIKE THIS...


SHF SHF
PUHK
AH—
OOH...
UNGH
KICH
OH... IT'S TOO MUCH—
I— I'M...
GOING TO COME...
ME TOO...
OOHH!

AAAHHHH!
UNGH!
SPLUT SPLUT
I ALWAYS USE YOUR KONJAC FOR SOMETHING SO SHAMEFUL
OTAMI-CHAN...
FORGIVE ME, OTAMI-CHAN...
ONE RECORD CLAIMS THAT THE IDEA TO MASTURBATE INTO KONJAC WAS DEVELOPED BY A STUDENT AT WASEDA UNIVERSITY, BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE.
A METHOD FOR MASTURBATING WITH KONJAC IS ALSO DESCRIBED IN A FAMOUS TEXTBOOK, "PRECEPTS OF HYGIENE," BY THE RESPECTED EDO-ERA HERBAL MEDICINE SCHOLAR EKIKEN

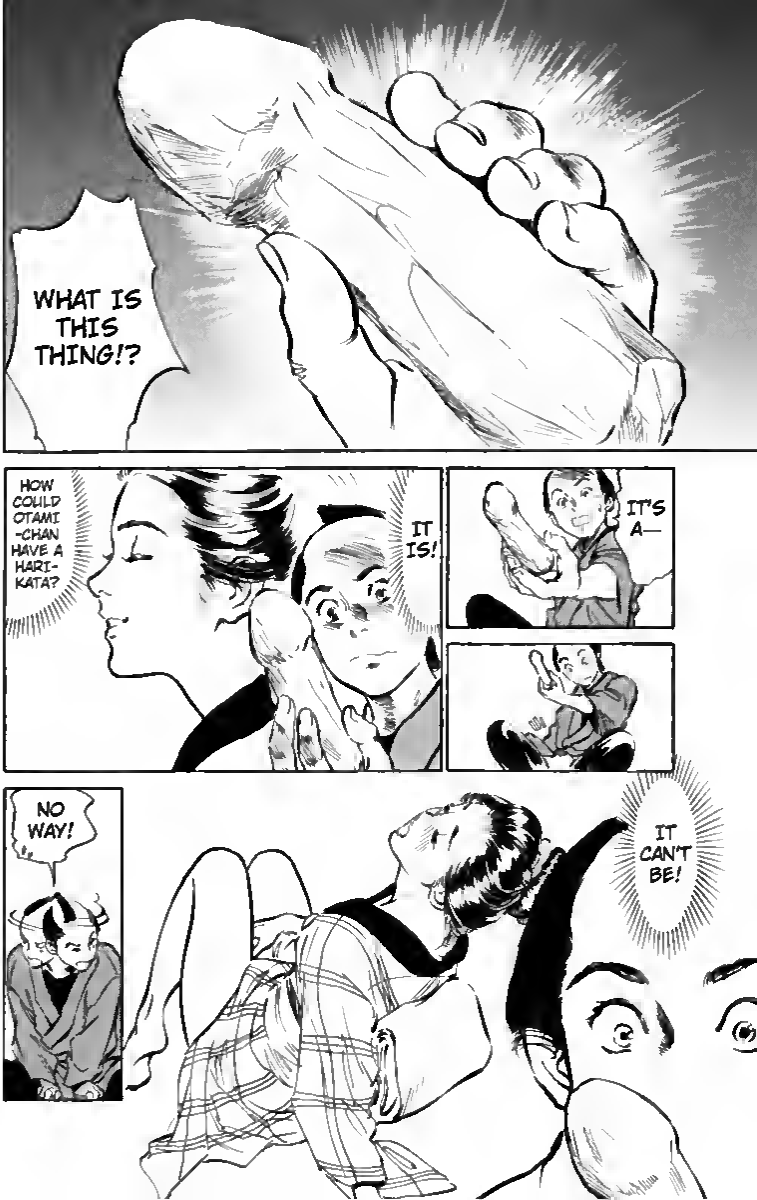

MAYBE I'LL STOP SELLING EARLY TOMORROW AND GO TO THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT ...
AFTER A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF MASTURBATION WITH CUCUMBERS AND MAKUWA MELONS, HE WRITES, "YOU MAY ALSO CUT A FOLD IN A PIECE OF KONJAC."

THE NEXT DAY ..
DAIKON RADISHES AND TURNIPS!
I'VE ALSO GOT KIDNEY BEANS!

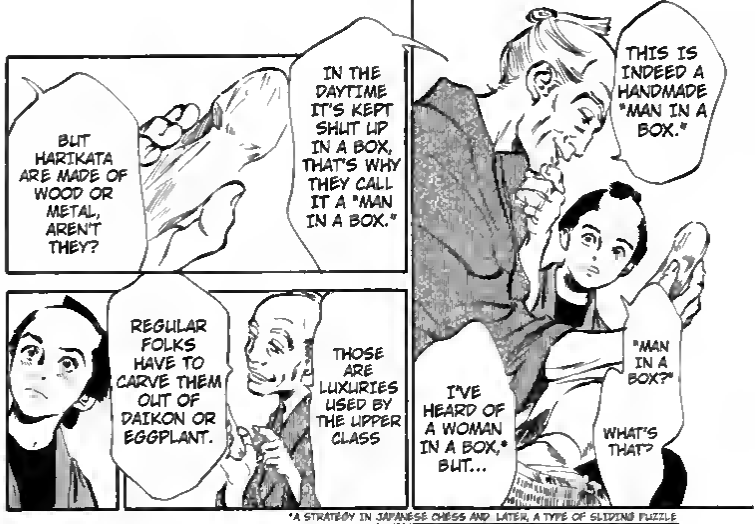
ズイィィィン!
OH MY!
AH— OOPS!
WHAM!
AAH!
DAI-KON AND TUR-NIPS!
CLAK CLAK CLAK CLAK

OTAMI-CHAN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE
I JUST PANIC-KED A LITTLE ...
HM?
OTAMI-CHAN, YOU DROPPED SOME-THING
PLUP
WH— WHAT IS IT, OTAMI-CHAN?
YOU JUST DROPPED THIS...
NOOO!
HOW DARE YOU, MASAGORO-SAN!
CLAK CLAK CLAK CLAK CLAK CLAK
I HATE YOU!
HOW DARE I WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?

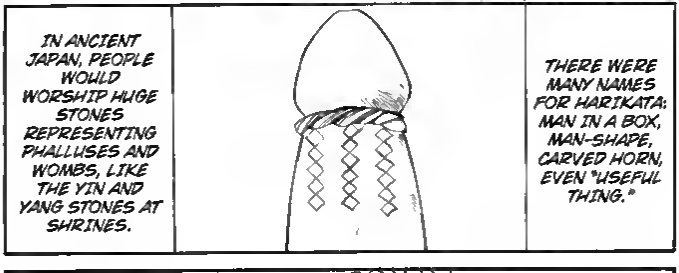
AND IT'S COVERED IN ASH.
IT'S AWFULLY WARM.
AND JUST WHAT IS THIS?
I JUST CAN'T FIGURE THIS OUT.
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE THE PAPER OFF?
HMMMMM?
OK...
IT'S PRETTY TIGHTLY WRAPPED, ISN'T IT...
RIP
RIP

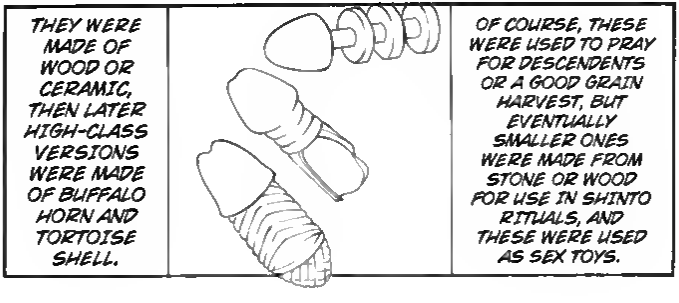

WHAT IS THIS THING!?
HOW COULD OTAMI -CHAN HAVE A HARI-KATA?
IT IS!
IT'S A—
NO WAY!
IT CAN'T BE!

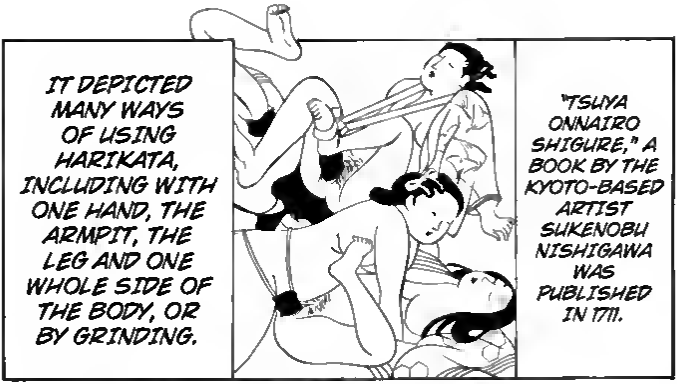
WELL, HER MOM DID DIE YOUNG ...
AND OTAMI -CHAN IS AN ONLY CHILD ...
SO SHE USES THIS TO...
OTAMI -CHAN ...
DAIKON AND TURNIPS!
THEY'RE CRISP AND FRESH!
TELL ME...
IS THIS ACTUALLY A HARIKATA?
WHERE DID YOU GET HOLD OF THIS, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE?


IN THE DAYTIME IT'S KEPT SHUT UP IN A BOX, THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT A "MAN IN A BOX."
BUT HARIKATA ARE MADE OF WOOD OR METAL, AREN'T THEY?
THOSE ARE LUXURIES USED BY THE UPPER CLASS
REGULAR FOLKS HAVE TO CARVE THEM OUT OF DAIKON OR EGGPLANT.
THIS IS INDEED A HANDMADE "MAN IN A BOX."
"MAN IN A BOX?"
WHAT'S THAT?
I'VE HEARD OF A WOMAN IN A BOX,* BUT...

*A STRATEGY IN JAPANESE CHESS AND LATER, A TYPE OF SLIDING PUZZLE


IN ANCIENT JAPAN, PEOPLE WOULD WORSHIP HUGE STONES REPRESENTING PHALLUSES AND WOMBS, LIKE THE YIN AND YANG STONES AT SHRINES.
THERE WERE MANY NAMES FOR HARIKATA: MAN IN A BOX, MAN-SHAPE, CARVED HORN, EVEN "USEFUL THING."


THEY WERE MADE OF WOOD OR CERAMIC, THEN LATER HIGH-CLASS VERSIONS WERE MADE OF BUFFALO HORN AND TORTOISE SHELL.
OF COURSE, THESE WERE USED TO PRAY FOR DESCENDENTS OR A GOOD GRAIN HARVEST, BUT EVENTUALLY SMALLER ONES WERE MADE FROM STONE OR WOOD FOR USE IN SHINTO RITUALS, AND THESE WERE USED AS SEX TOYS.

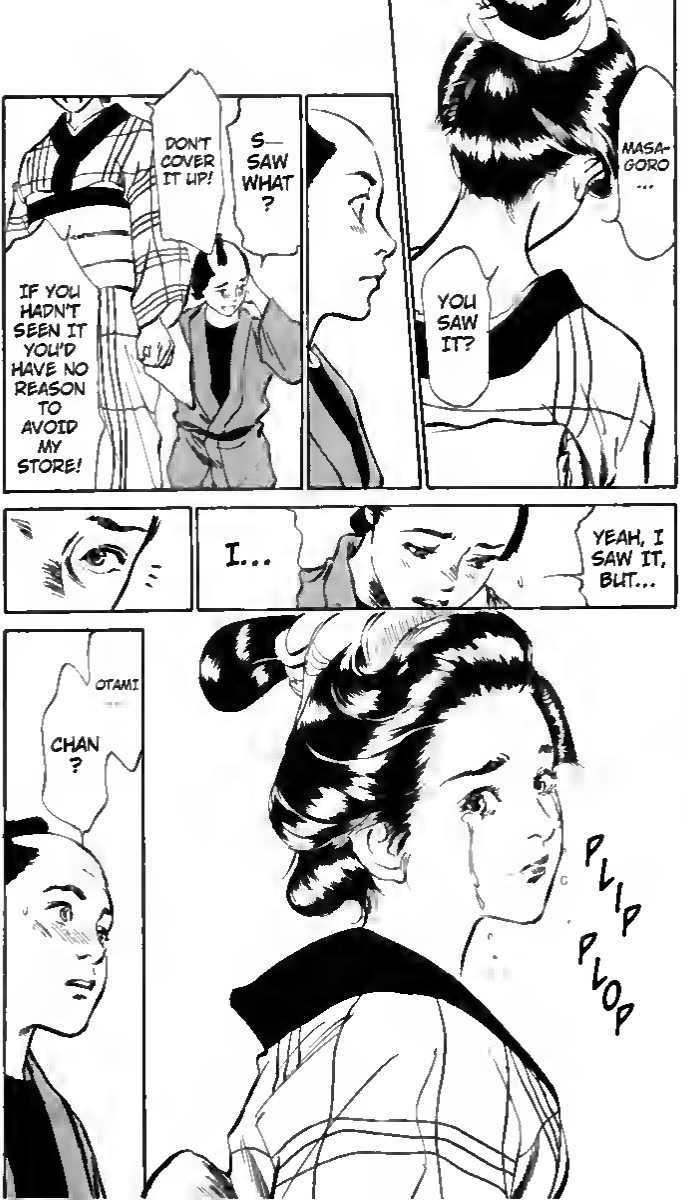

"TSUYA ONNAIRO SHIGURE," A BOOK BY THE KYOTO-BASED ARTIST SUKENOBU NISHIGAWA WAS PUBLISHED IN 1711.
IT DEPICTED MANY WAYS OF USING HARIKATA, INCLUDING WITH ONE HAND, THE ARMPIT, THE LEG AND ONE WHOLE SIDE OF THE BODY, OR BY GRINDING.

THIS IS WHY IT WAS ONLY AFTER HARIKATA HAD SPREAD NEAR KYOTO THAT THEY STARTED BEING USED BY COMMONERS IN EDO.

I SEE, BUT ...
WHEN SHE DROPPED THIS, IT WAS WRAPPED IN PAPER AND COVERED IN ASH.
WON'T IT MAKE THEM ITCHY IF THEY USE IT LIKE THAT?
HA HA HA HA, NOT AT ALL!
THEY JUST CAN'T USE IT COLD.
SO THEY WRAP IT IN PAPER, PUT IT IN WITH THE EMBERS, THEN USE IT AT BODY TEMPERATURE.

BODY TEMPERATURE.
OH!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT WAS KIND OF WARM WHEN I PICKED IT UP...
THEN THAT'S IT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT OLD WIDOW DROPPED IT,
HA HA HA HA
BUT IF YOU TELL ME I'D BE GLAD TO COMFORT HER!
KONJAC
HOW ABOUT SOME DAIKON AND TURNIPS ...
DAI-KON AND TUR-NIPS!
O— OTAMI -CHAN ...

WHY ...
WHY HAVE YOU AVOIDED MY STORE FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS?
I HAVEN'T BEEN AVOIDING IT...
I JUST DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SELL...
LIAR! YOU JUST NOW SPOTTED MY STORE AND STOPPED YOURSELF FROM GOING IN!
COME WITH ME.
OTAMI-CHAN ...
SO... WHAT IS IT?


MASA-GORO ...
YOU SAW IT?
S— SAW WHAT?
DON'T COVER IT UP!
IF YOU HADN'T SEEN IT YOU'D HAVE NO REASON TO AVOID MY STORE!
I...
YEAH, I SAW IT, BUT...
OTAMI-CHAN?
PLIP PLOP

YOU WERE HORRIFIED THAT I'D USE THE DAIKON YOU BROUGHT ME FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
YOU WERE SHOCKED AT WHAT A STUPID GIRL I AM...
NO... I—I WASN'T EVEN...
WHEN I THOUGHT YOU WOULD NEVER COME IN AGAIN, I...
I...
PLEASE BELIEVE ME... THE LADY NEXT DOOR TAUGHT ME AND I MADE ONE OUT OF CURIOSITY...
BUT I GOT SCARED AND DECIDED TO GO THROW IT AWAY...
AND THAT'S—
THAT'S WHY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN COMING TO THE STORE
THAT'S NOT IT!
M—MASAGORO-SAN?
THAT'S NOT IT, OTAMI-CHAN!

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLO-GIZE TO YOU!
MASA-GORO -SAN ...
APOLO-GIZE?
I'VE ...
I'VE BEEN USING YOUR KONJAC FOR SOMETHING ELSE!
ARE YOU SHOCKED? I REALLY DO LOVE DRINKING SAKE AND EATING KONJAC SLICES!
BUT I ALSO ...
OTAMI -CHAN
...WHO DO YOU THINK OF?
WHAT?

DO YOU THINK OF SOME-ONE YOU LOVE?
AH...
MM ...
M...
MMM ...

I DON'T HATE YOU
I COULDN'T HATE YOU...
GRASP
THAT'S NOT IT ...
I— I'M SORRY !
AH... NO...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, OTAMI -CHAN?
AAH ...

GOOD, OTAMI -CHAN ...
I'M SCARED ...
MASAGORO -SAN...
SPCH...
OW ...
O-
OTAMI -CHAN ..
NG—
AH!
GUSH
AH!
GUSH
MMMM ...
MASA GORO -SAN ...
HAH, HAH, HAH ...
HAH HAH

ENERGETIC AS ALWAYS!
DO YOU HAVE ANY SWEET POTATO KONJAC?
WELCOME!
JUST FINISHED A FRESH BATCH!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
WELL, UNTIL SIX MONTHS AGO YOU WERE A GREENGROCER
IF YOU LEARN TOO QUICKLY HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO RETIRE!
I SEE YOUR HUSBAND'S BECOME QUITE THE KONJAC SALESMAN TOO!
THE HARIKATA PLAYS A STRANGE ROLE... PEOPLE IN EVERY ERA HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN MASTURBATION, AND IT'S NEVER BEEN TRULY DESPISED.
HER FATHER'S STILL PRETTY HARD ON ME, THOUGH...

THE MAN IN THE BOX / END

CHAPTER THREE
HELPER WOMAN
WELCOME!
PRICES AS MARKED
CASH ONLY
DRY GOODS
ECHIGO-YA
UENO
YES, I'M ALWAYS GETTING INTO TROUBLE ...
NO, IT'S DISGRACEFUL FOR SOMEONE WHO UNTIL RECENTLY WAS JUST READING BOOKS TO LEARN THE BUSINESS SO QUICKLY!
THE MASTER WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE HIS SON SO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE FAMILY BUSINESS
YOU LOOK WELL TODAY, SHOSUKE-SAN
NO, NO, YOU HAVE EXCELLENT FOCUS
THE MASTER WILL BE ABLE TO RETIRE COMFORTABLY SOON!
YOU NEVER SAY A BAD WORD ABOUT SHOSUKE DOES THAT MEAN YOU WANT ME TO RETIRE?
HA HA HA

CHAPTER THREE
THE HELPER WOMAN
◉第三話◉
介添女

ごーん
BOOM
YOUNG MASTER, PLEASE GO AND HAVE LUNCH FIRST.
HM... WELL... WHAT IS OSAKI DOING TODAY..?
THE YOUNG MISTRESS? I BELIEVE SHE WAS FEELING POORLY AND WILL EAT IN HER ROOM TODAY
I SEE...
SHHH
ぱたん
CLUP

I CAN EAT LATER, SO YOU SHOULD GO FIRST WITH THE CLERK, FATHER.
VERY WELL ...
CASH ONLY
DRY GOODS
PRICES AS MARKED
WE DID GOOD BUSINESS TODAY.
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
SHOSUKE ...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FOR A DRINK BEFORE DINNER?
SURE, I WOULD!
I WONDER IF ANYONE ELSE...
NO.
I'D LIKE JUST THE TWO OF US TO GO THIS TIME.
FATHER ..?

YOU'RE WORRIED ?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR WIFE?
NO, NOT REALLY
IT'S JUST THAT OSAKI HAS ONLY LIVED WITH US FOR THREE MONTHS...
IN THE 13 YEARS SINCE YOUR MOTHER PASSED AWAY...
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WORKING THAT I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME TO BE A FATHER TO YOU ..
GULP
I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE TO HELP YOU WHEN YOU NEEDED ME...
IT'S PATHETIC
FATHER ...
I'M SORRY ...
PAT
I'M SO SORRY ... FOR WORRY-ING YOU!
SHOSUKE
WOULD YOU TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG?

FATHER... PLEASE DON'T LAUGH...
THE FIRST NIGHT OSAKI AND I HAD TOGE-THER ...
SHH...
CHUP
KCH...

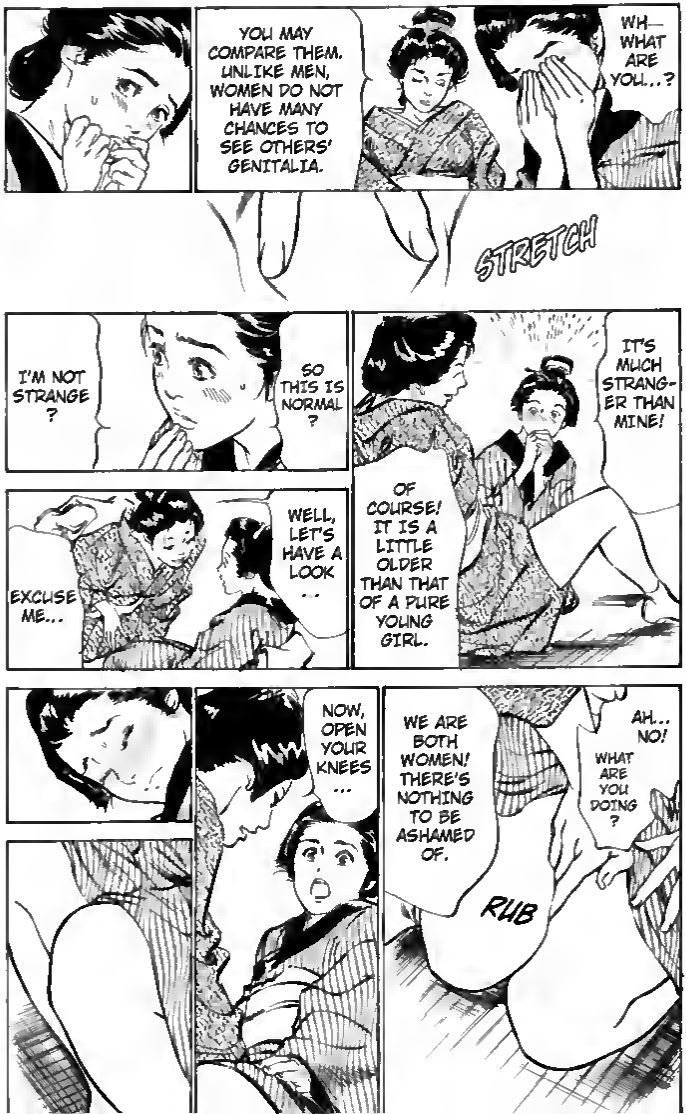
PLEASE, NOT SO ROUGH ...
I— I'M SORRY ...
UNH! OUCH ...
IT... IT WON'T GO IN..
ISN'T IT SUPPOSED TO GO IN HERE?
PLEASE ... DO NOT ASK ME SUCH THINGS!
UNGH!
SPLIT
YES, BUT... AT THIS RATE ...
I CAN'T ...

*A RED LIGHT DISTRICT IN OLD TOKYO.
AFTER THAT, I HAVE TRIED TO CONSUMMATE MANY TIMES...
BUT I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT MAKING A MISTAKE THAT I CAN'T!
THAT'S ODD, SHOSUKE
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN TO YOSHIWARA* WITH THE CLERK MANY TIMES?
A PEACEFUL HOME IS A MERCHANT'S GREATEST TREASURE
IT'S AN UNSPOKEN RULE THAT MEN SHOULD GO TO YOSHIWARA TO ALLEVIATE DOUBT ON THEIR WEDDING NIGHTS
YOU WERE TOO STIFF. THAT'S WHY I SENT THE CLERK TO TAKE YOU TO YOSHIWARA.
I HAVE BEEN TO YOSHIWARA MANY TIMES, BUT—
WHEN I TRY TO PERFORM THE ACT, I GET NEVOUS, AND...
BEFORE I KNOW IT THE SUN'S RISING.
WHEN I ASK THE OIRAN* NOT TO TELL THE CLERK, THEY READILY AGREE...
NOT TO HAVE KNOWN A WOMAN AT MY AGE...
I COULDN'T TELL ANYONE!
IT'S STRANGE, FATHER ...
WHAT'S STRANGE ABOUT IT?
THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME.
I THOUGHT I COULD HAVE THE CLERK DO THIS, BUT...
THAT WAS CARELESS OF ME.
*A TERM FOR A GLAMOROUS PROSTITUTE IN OLD TOKYO

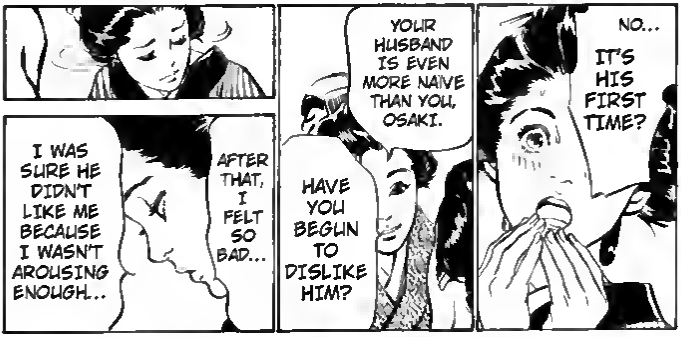
LEAVE ALL OF THIS UP TO ME!
I WILL HIRE A CAPABLE HELPER WOMAN!
HELPER ... WOMAN?
I DON'T REMEMBER READING ABOUT THEM...
WHAT ARE THEY?
THERE ARE MANY ESSENTIAL THINGS IN THE WORLD THAT AREN'T WRITTEN ABOUT IN BOOKS.
PRICES AS MARKED
CASH ONLY
DRY GOODS
ECHIGO-YA
UENO
SHF...

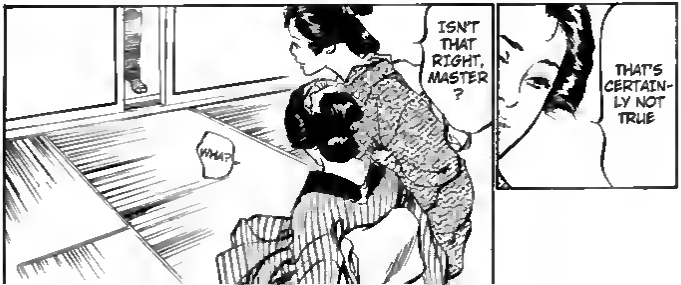
ARE YOU OSAKI?
MY NAME IS FUJIE.
FATHER TOLD ME WE HAD A GUEST ...
WHAT DO YOU NEED?
OSAKI ... YOU HAVE STILL NOT...
SEALED YOUR BOND WITH YOUR HUSBAND, CORRECT?
WHERE DID YOU HEAR SUCH A THING?!
WELL, YOU HAVE BEEN AVOIDING YOUR HUSBAND
WHY COULD THAT BE?
HE IS THE ONE AVOIDING ME!
WILL I BE DIVORCED AND SENT BACK TO MY FAMILY?
WILL I BE REMOVED FROM THIS HOUSE?

WHY DO YOU THINK YOUR VULVA IS STRANGE-LY SHAPED?
BECAUSE MY... PLACE IS STRANGELY SHAPED...
WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?
THAT'S WHY MY HUSBAND CAN'T DO IT...
THAT'S WHY HE DIS-LIKES ME!
BEFORE I WAS MARRIED, I GREW WORRIED ..
SO I LOOKED AT IT WITH A HAND MIRROR, AND...
I WAS SURPRISED AT HOW STRANGE IT LOOKED!
OSAKI ...
PLEASE LOOK.

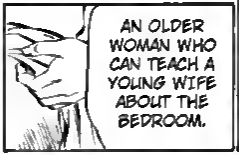

YOU MAY COMPARE THEM. UNLIKE MEN, WOMEN DO NOT HAVE MANY CHANCES TO SEE OTHERS' GENITALIA.
WH— WHAT ARE YOU...?
STRETCH
I'M NOT STRANGE ?
SO THIS IS NORMAL ?
IT'S MUCH STRANGER THAN MINE!
OF COURSE! IT IS A LITTLE OLDER THAN THAT OF A PURE YOUNG GIRL.
EXCUSE ME...
WELL, LET'S HAVE A LOOK ...
NOW, OPEN YOUR KNEES ...
WE ARE BOTH WOMEN! THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
AH... NO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?
RUB

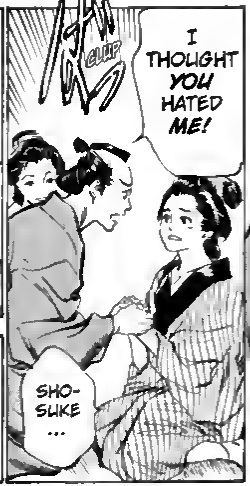
THEN WHY COULDN'T MY HUSBAND...?
IT'S ALL RIGHT
YOU ARE COMPLETELY NORMAL
REALLY?


I WAS SURE HE DIDN'T LIKE ME BECAUSE I WASN'T AROUSING ENOUGH...
AFTER THAT, I FELT SO BAD...
HAVE YOU BEGUN TO DISLIKE HIM?
YOUR HUSBAND IS EVEN MORE NAIVE THAN YOU, OSAKI.
NO... IT'S HIS FIRST TIME?


HMM?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MASTER?
THAT'S CERTAINLY NOT TRUE

THAT'S WHY THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN HELPER WOMEN LIKE ME
OF COURSE IT WON'T GO WELL WHEN IT'S THE FIRST TIME FOR BOTH OF YOU
HELPER WOMEN ?


AN OLDER WOMAN WHO CAN TEACH A YOUNG WIFE ABOUT THE BEDROOM.


GULP
I THOUGHT YOU HATED ME!
SHO-SUKE ...

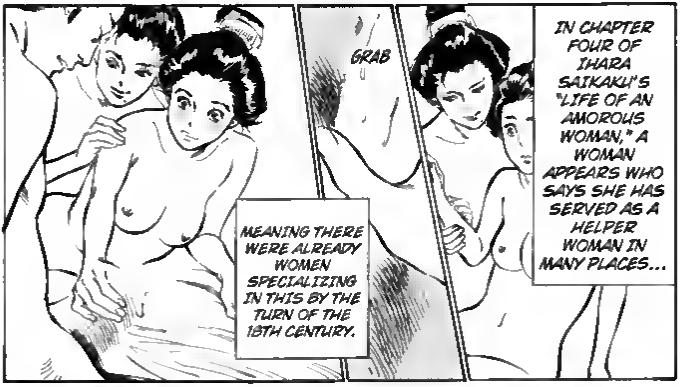
I'M SORRY, OSAKI!

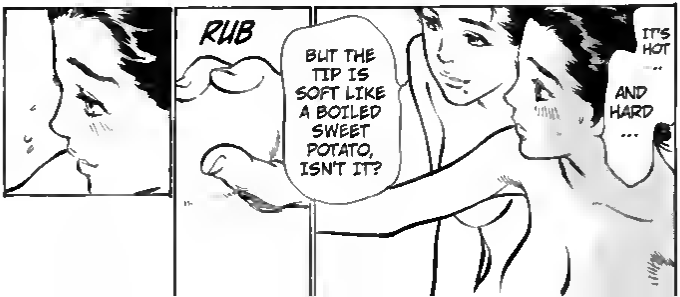
MEN HAD MANY CHANCES TO LOSE THEIR VIRGINITY IN THE RED LIGHT DISTRICTS, BUT GIRLS COULD NOT DO THAT.
FOR SAMURAI AND MERCHANT FAMILIES IN THE EDO PERIOD, PROTECTING THE FAMILY LINE WAS ESSENTIAL.

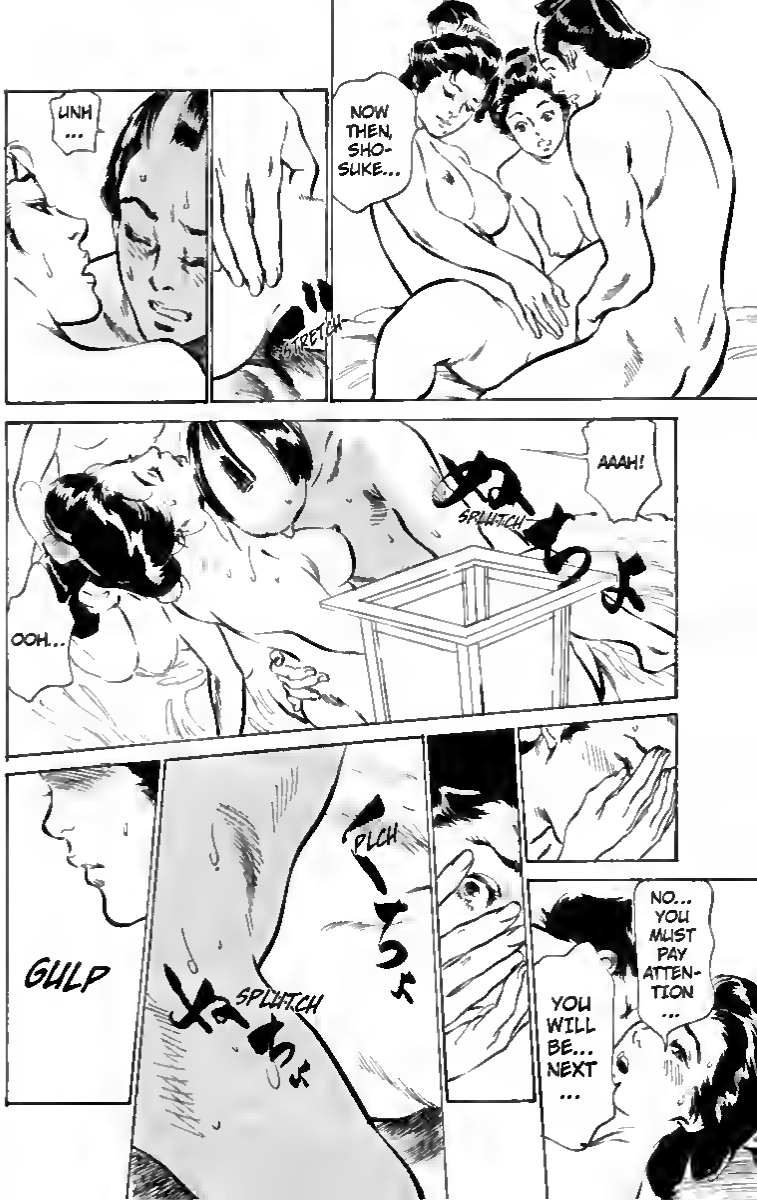
THEY SAW TO THE BRIDE'S NEEDS, BUT IN CERTAIN CASES THEY ALSO ACTUALLY SHOWED THE BRIDE HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THE HUSBAND, ENSURING A HAPPY WEDDING NIGHT.
AH...
THUS, AFFLUENT MERCHANT FAMILIES IN OSAKA BEGAN EMPLOYING FEMALE SERVANTS CALLED "HELPER WOMEN" TO HELP THEIR DAUGHTERS THROUGH THEIR WEDDING NIGHTS.

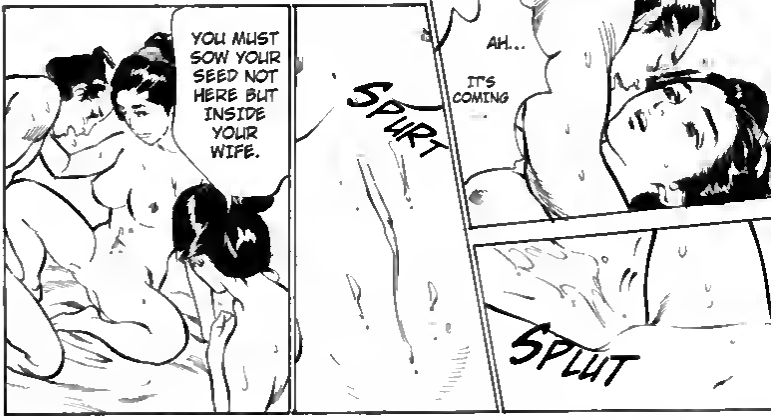
BRUSH...
LIKE STROKING THE FLESH OF A PEACH OR PICKING UP A BOILED BLACK SOYBEAN WITH YOUR CHOPSTICKS ...
GENTLY, GENTLY...
THEY SAY, WHEN TOUCHING A WOMAN'S BODY, YOU SHOULD STROKE THE PEACH AND PICK THE BEAN.
THIS MUST BE A RELATIVELY OLD CUSTOM.
OF COURSE, BECAUSE THE HELPER WOMAN IS ACTUALLY WITH HER ON HER WEDDING NIGHT.
THERE IS EVEN A SCENE IN WHICH A NEW WIFE WHO HAS NOT KNOWN A MAN ASKS A HELPER WOMAN ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN THE MORNING AFTER HER WEDDING NIGHT.
PINCH
IN A STORY CALLED "KINOWAKERU NO MONOGATARI" PUBLISHED IN A COMIC COLLECTION IN 1623
THEN THE WOMAN MUST TAKE IT...
IF YOUR HUSBAND'S MEMBER IS DOING POORLY...

AHHH ...
AND STROKE FORWARD ALONG THE SHAFT,
TO MAKE SURE BLOOD IS FLOWING
SHF
SHF
SHF
INCRED-IBLE...


GRAB
IN CHAPTER FOUR OF IHARA SAIKAKU'S "LIFE OF AN AMOROUS WOMAN," A WOMAN APPEARS WHO SAYS SHE HAS SERVED AS A HELPER WOMAN IN MANY PLACES...
MEANING THERE WERE ALREADY WOMEN SPECIALIZING IN THIS BY THE TURN OF THE 18TH CENTURY.


RUB
BUT THE TIP IS SOFT LIKE A BOILED SWEET POTATO, ISN'T IT?
IT'S HOT ...
AND HARD ...


UNH ...
STRETCH
NOW THEN, SHO-SUKE...
AAAH!
SPLUTCH
ぬちょ
OOH...
GULP
PLCH
ぺちょ
SPLUTCH
ぬめぇ
YOU WILL BE... NEXT ...
NO... YOU MUST PAY ATTEN-TION ...


YOU MUST SOW YOUR SEED NOT HERE BUT INSIDE YOUR WIFE.
SPURT
AH...
IT'S COMING...
SPLUT

HE'S SO SWEATY...
OF COURSE. AS THE OLD SAYING GOES, IN LOVEMAKING, THE MAN RUNS WHILE THE WOMAN WALKS.
NOW, CLEAN UP HIS SWEAT.
SHF..

SEE HOW WHEN YOU TOUCH IT HER HIPS GO WEAK?
NOW MOVE YOUR FINGERS SLOWLY AND GENTLY.
YES, THAT BEAN THERE IS CALLED THE DOLL'S SPOT. TOUCH IT ESPECIALLY GENTLY.
D— DOLL'S SPOT?

THE SMALL PROTRUSION IN THE DEPRESSION ON THE HAT WORN BY HINA DOLLS IS CALLED THE DOLL'S SPOT.

"THE PORCH TO THE VULVA'S ENTRANCE IS CALLED THE "DOLL'S SPOT."

NATARI SAWADA, A SCHOLAR IN THE AIZU DOMAIN IN THE 19TH CENTURY, WROTE THE FOLLOWING IN THE BOOK ANA OKASHI:

IT FEELS GOOD, RIGHT?
OSAKI'S VAGINA HAS GOTTEN QUITE DAMP...
SQUILCH
SQUILCH
BEFORE THE WORD CLITORIS, JAPAN USED SUCH AN ELEGANT EXPRESSION TO DESCRIBE A WOMAN'S MOST SENSITIVE SPOT.
HAHA HA..
YOUNG MASTER'S PEN IS ALSO HOT AND HARD. IT FEELS LIKE IT COULD BURST.
THRUST
∞

AA ...
OW!
SLIDE
YOUR WIFE IS IN PAIN, YOUNG MASTER.
WHEN THIS HAPPENS, YOU MUST WAIT A LITTLE.
O... OH.
SLIDE
SORRY.
YOUNG MASTER, JUST BEAR WITH IT FOR A LITTLE.
THRUST
NNN ...NN N...
MY... MY LORD--

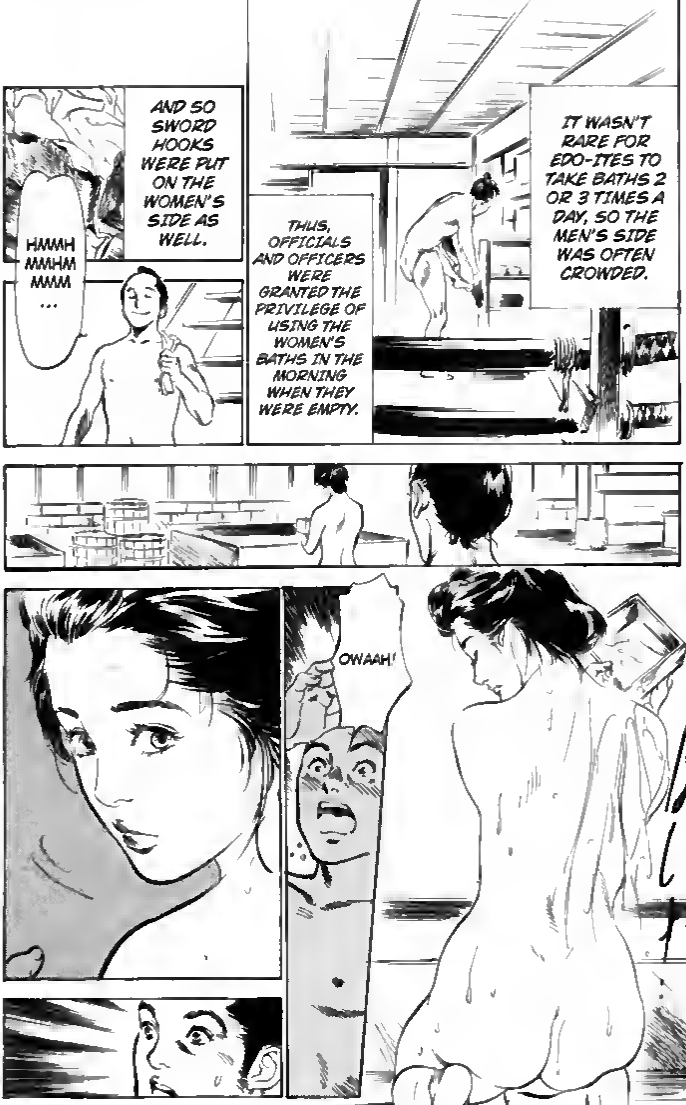
SQUILCH
SQUILCH
AA...
∞...
LILIH...
AA...
∞...
I'M... GOING TO COME AGAIN...
SQUILCH
AA-
AAHH!
THRUST

OSAKI
UMMM... WOULD YOU PASS ME THE SOY SAUCE PLEASE?
CLOTHING
BLUSH
CARESS
DESPITE MY AGE, AFTER LISTENING TO THE GOINGS-ON LAST NIGHT, I ALSO...UM..
AND ... UM ...
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU.
THE FUTURE OF THE STORE SHOULD BE SAFE NOW.
LOOKS LIKE IT WENT WELL.
THAT WILL BE A SEPA-RATE FEE...
THEY'LL BE WITH CHILD IN NO TIME.

第四話
石榴口
CHAPTER: 4
POMEGRANATE MOUTH

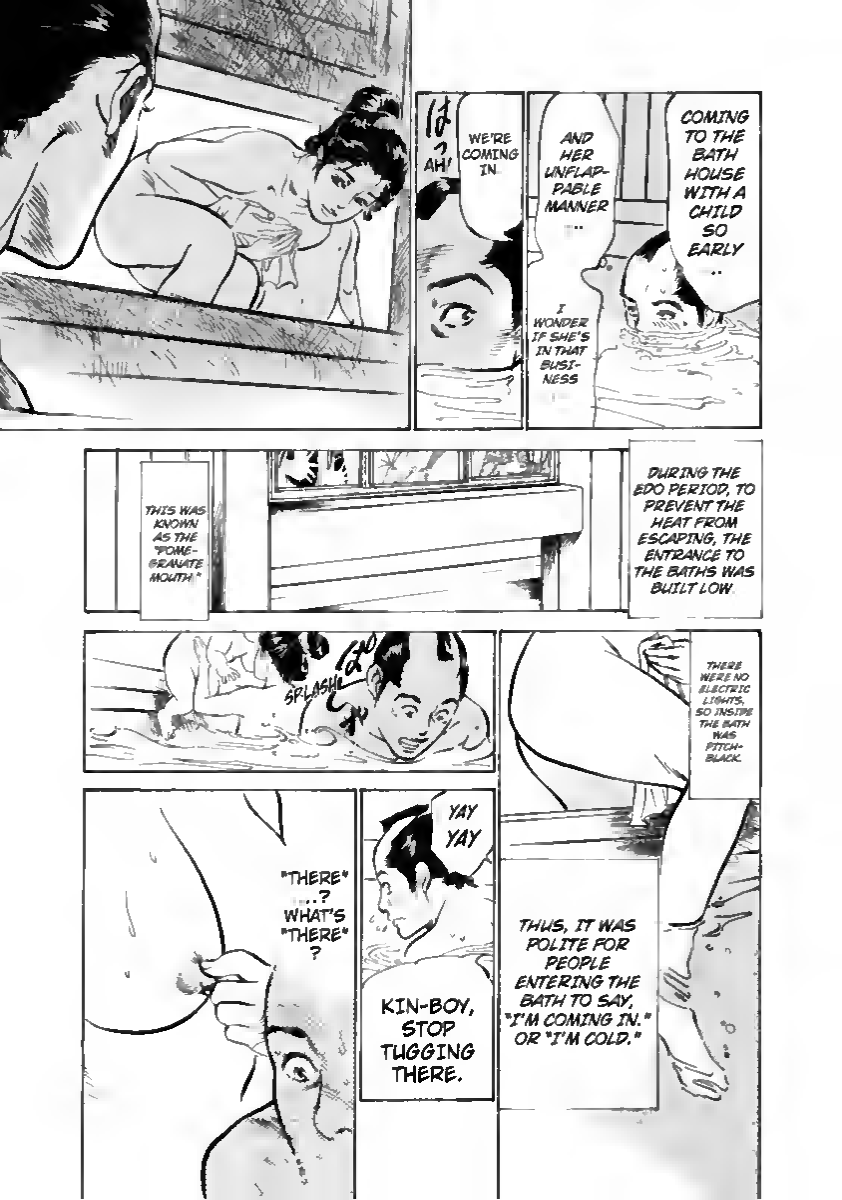
RASP
RASP
EDO
OH! HACCHO-BORI!
RASP
MATSUDA,
OFF TO WORK ?
HEY! G'MORNING!

MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE A BATH AND WAKE UP A BIT?
MEN'S BATH
WOMEN'S BATH
EURGHH...
I DRANK TOO MUCH LAST NIGHT, SO...
FLAP
WOMEN
THIS IS WORTH IT.
THERE IS SOMETHING CALLED THE "7 MYSTERIES OF HACCHOBORI" IN EDO
THEY SAY A MAN WHO SLEEPS LATE, DRINKS EARLY AND BATHES EARLY NEVER DIES WELL, BUT...
HMMHM MHMM MHM...
HEY, OLD MAN!
I'LL BE USING THIS ONE.
THE SWORD HOOKS HANGING ON THE WALLS OF WOMEN'S BATHS ARE ONE OF THEM.


AND SO SWORD HOOKS WERE PUT ON THE WOMEN'S SIDE AS WELL.
HMMH MMHM MMM ...
THUS, OFFICIALS AND OFFICERS WERE GRANTED THE PRIVILEGE OF USING THE WOMEN'S BATHS IN THE MORNING WHEN THEY WERE EMPTY.
IT WASN'T RARE FOR EDO-ITES TO TAKE BATHS 2 OR 3 TIMES A DAY, SO THE MEN'S SIDE WAS OFTEN CROWDED.
OWAAH!
SPLASH

DIDN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT IT ALREADY BEING OCCUPIED
THAT OLD MAN ...
AH!
PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I AM FROM THIS AREA.
POP
O... OH?
PEEK
PEEK
AFTER ALL, THERE WAS NO ARTIFICIAL ILLUMINATION, SO THE INSIDE OF THE BATH WAS DIM.
NOW, KIN-BOY,
STOP SQUIRMING SO I CAN WASH YOU.
UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF THE EDO PD, MIXED BATHING WAS THE NORM

STARE
EVEN SO, THERE WERE MEN WHO TRIED TO CATCH A GLIMPSE.
TO KEEP THE MEN FROM SUCCEEDING, WOMEN WOULD THUS USE THEIR CHILDREN AS SHIELDS.
SHE'S A HANDSOME WOMAN BUT
A MOTHER, HUH?
SPLISH


COMING TO THE BATH HOUSE WITH A CHILD SO EARLY ..
AND HER UNFLAPPABLE MANNER ...
I WONDER IF SHE'S IN THAT BUSINESS
WE'RE COMING IN.
AH!
DURING THE EDO PERIOD, TO PREVENT THE HEAT FROM ESCAPING, THE ENTRANCE TO THE BATHS WAS BUILT LOW.
THIS WAS KNOWN AS THE "POMEGRANATE MOUTH."
THERE WERE NO ELECTRIC LIGHTS, SO INSIDE THE BATH WAS PITCH-BLACK.
SPLASH!
THUS, IT WAS POLITE FOR PEOPLE ENTERING THE BATH TO SAY, "I'M COMING IN." OR "I'M COLD."
YAY YAY
KIN-BOY, STOP TUGGING THERE.
"THERE" ...? WHAT'S "THERE" ?

(BUDDHIST CHANT)
SUBSIDE. SUBSIDE!
TWITCH TWITCH
O... OH NO!
ざぱあ
SPLISH
I... OVER-HEATED ...
TUG.
TUG
TUG

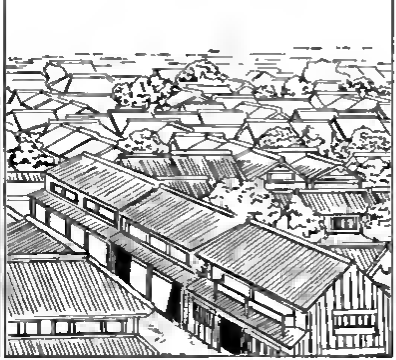
I... I HAVE NO EXCUSE !
DIG
LATE ON THE DAY OF SUCH A BIG ARREST !!
YOU LAZY GOOD-GOOD-FOR-NOTHING !
SOUTH TOWN POLICE STATION
TO BE LATE TO AN ARREST BECAUSE I OVER-HEATED ...
HOAAA ... SO PATHE-TIC.
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
BUT THAT LADY WAS REALLY GOOD-LOOKING
IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL LOVE-AT-FIRST-SIGHT ...?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME.
AND SHE'S MAR-RIED WITH A CHILD.
!!

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING
SLAM
WAH!
SLIP
OWW... THAT HURTS!
AWFULLY BRAVE OF YOU TO TRY THAT IN FRONT OF AN OFFICER!
SQUEEZE

GAAA
DAMMIT
OOOH
DROP
PAA
SWOOSH
THWACK
URK!
TUG...
CLOP CLOP CLOP
WIND
WIND

I CAN'T MOVE.
DAMMIT!
WHA ... WHAT THE HELL?
DA DA DA
YOU WON'T GET AWAY!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO UNTIE THOSE KNOTS IT WAS UNLUCKY THAT HE'S THE ONE WHO CAUGHT YOU.
GIVE UP.
AMAZING! SO THAT'S THE RUMORED "QUICK-ROPE MATSUDA"
SO THAT'S ...
HIJIRO MATSUDA ?
...
TA TA TA
HE'S STILL YOUNG, BUT HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE REALLY TALENTED.
QUICK-ROPE MATSUDA ...

HYAAAAH!



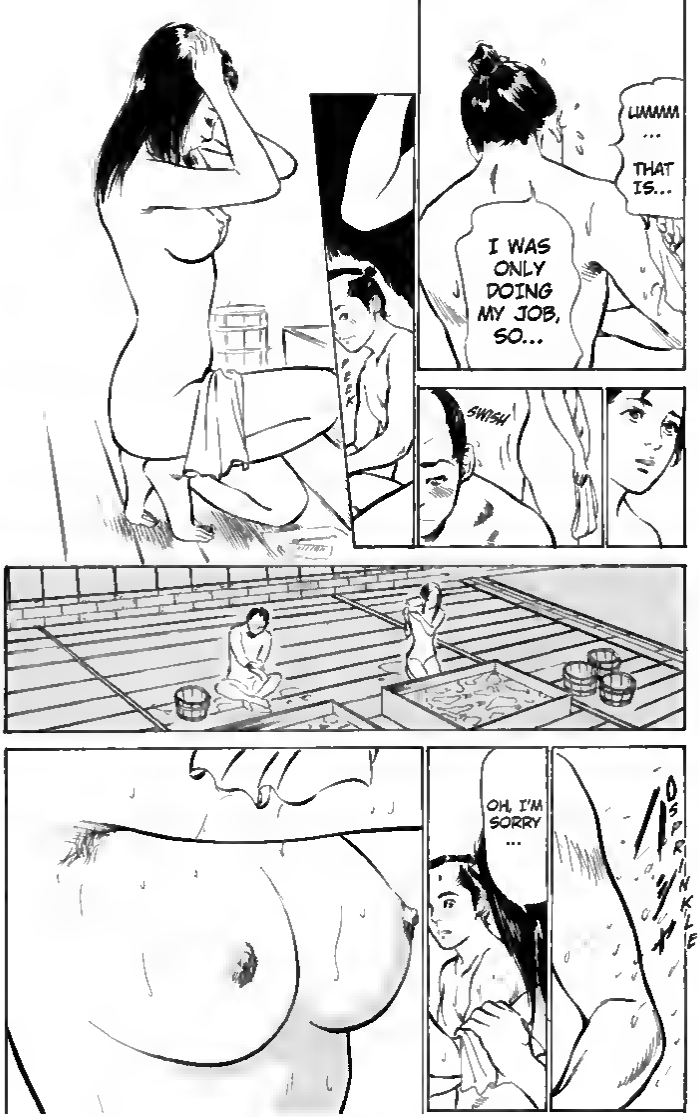
THANKS TO HER, MY TARDINESS THIS MORNING HAS BEEN FORGIVEN

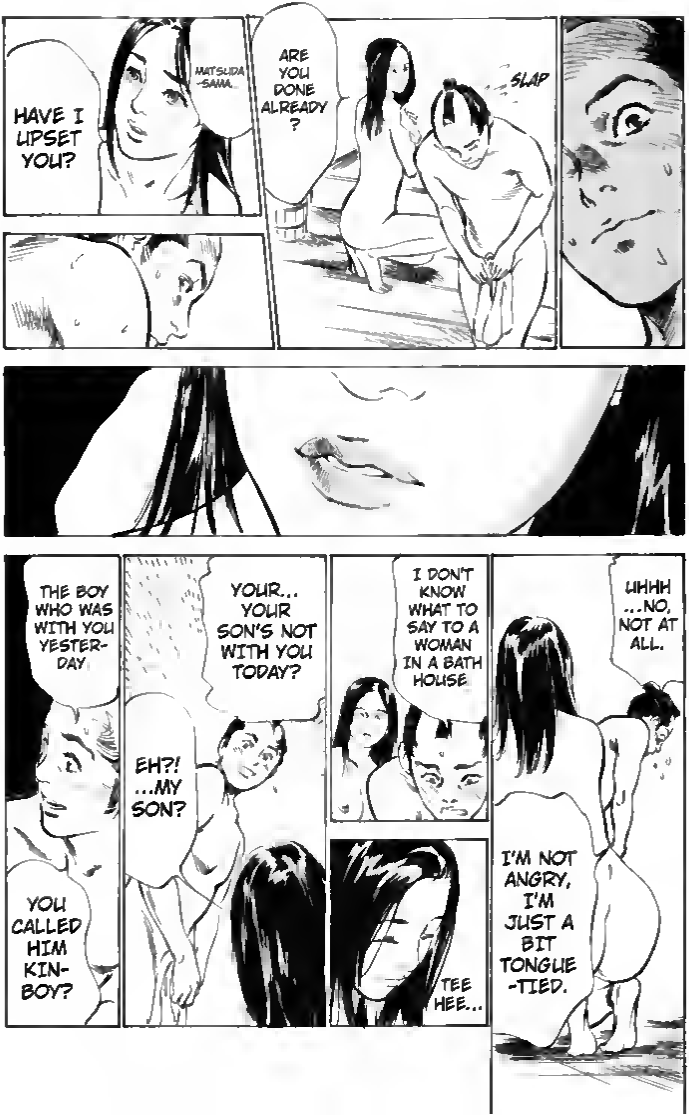
THAT PICKPOCKET WAS A BIGGER CATCH THAN I EXPECTED.

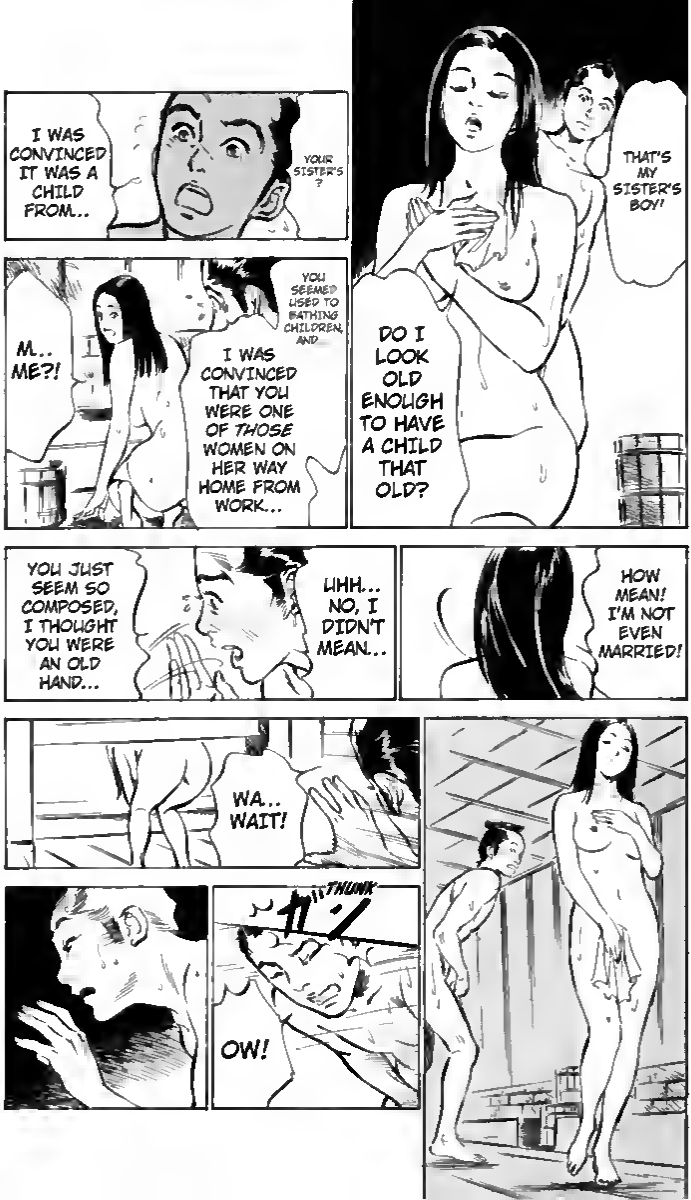
EVEN IF I SAW HER AGAIN, WHAT COULD I DO?
BETTER NOT.

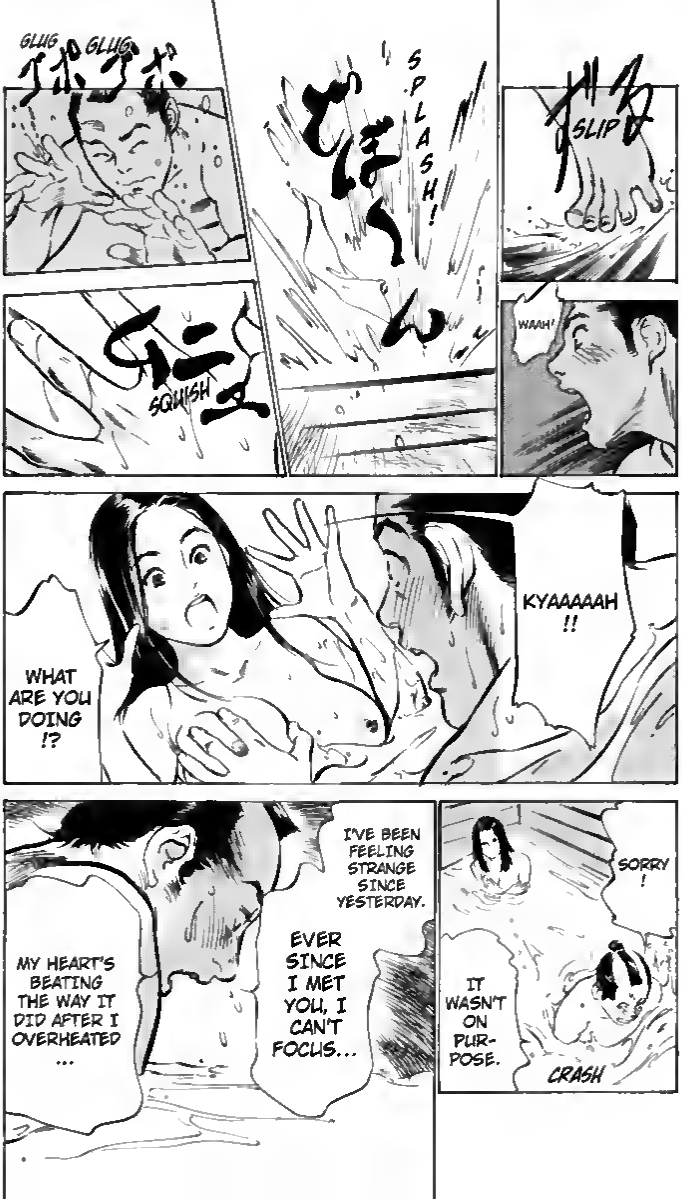
THERE'S NO WAY SHE'LL BE HERE...
がらん
RATTLE
ぺち
SLAP
ざばぁ
SPLASH
YOU... YOU'RE ...!
IT'S TOO MUCH OF A TEMPTATION...
I SHOULD STOP COMING HERE.

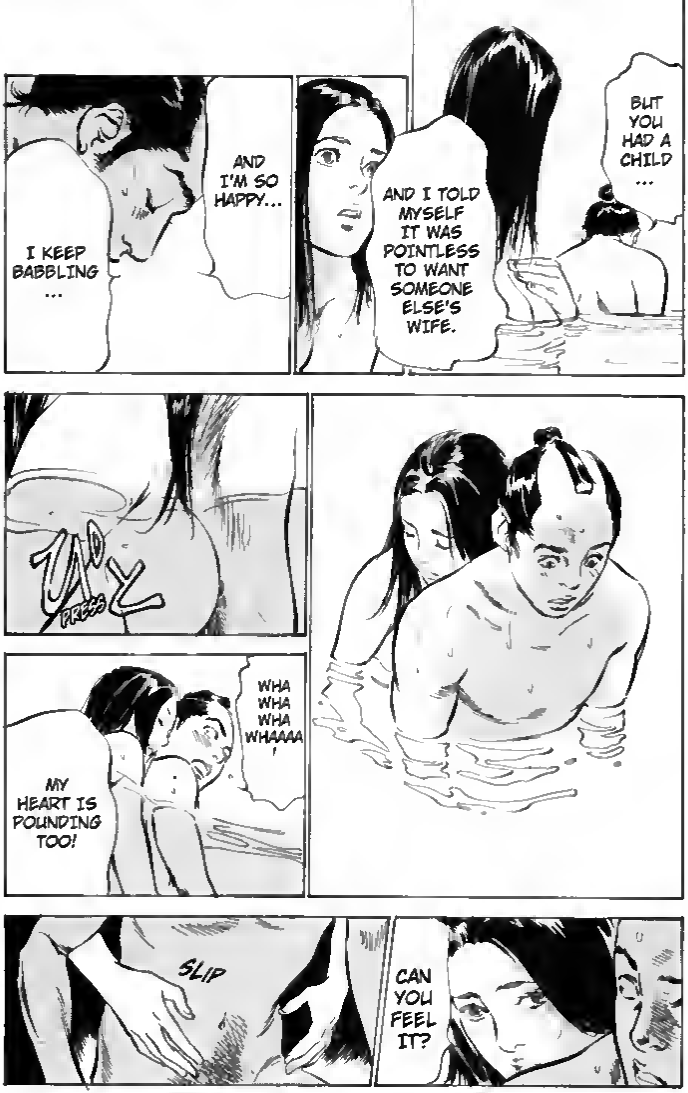
HUH ?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP YESTER-DAY.
I'M OSHIMA.
SLAM
YOU CAUGHT THE PEOPLE WHO STOLE MY WALLET.
YESTE-DAY ...?
I DON'T RECALL ...
I'M VERY GRATEFUL. I'D LIKE TO REPAY YOU SOMEHOW ...
I LOSE SIGHT OF EVERYTHING ELSE WHEN IT COMES TO MY JOB.
WHAT! YOU WERE THE VICTIM?
OH MY, YOU DIDN'T KNOW?


PEEK
SWISH
UMMM ...
THAT IS...
I WAS ONLY DOING MY JOB, SO...
OH, I'M SORRY ...
SPRINKLE


HAVE I UPSET YOU?
MATSUDA -SAMA..
ARE YOU DONE ALREADY ?
SLAP
THE BOY WHO WAS WITH YOU YESTER-DAY
YOU CALLED HIM KIN-BOY?
EH?! ...MY SON?
YOUR... YOUR SON'S NOT WITH YOU TODAY?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO A WOMAN IN A BATH HOUSE
TEE HEE...
UHHH ...NO, NOT AT ALL.
I'M NOT ANGRY, I'M JUST A BIT TONGUE -TIED.


I WAS CONVINCED IT WAS A CHILD FROM...
YOUR SISTER'S ?
THAT'S MY SISTER'S BOY!
DO I LOOK OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE A CHILD THAT OLD?
YOU SEEMED USED TO BATHING CHILDREN, AND...
I WAS CONVINCED THAT YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE WOMEN ON HER WAY HOME FROM WORK...
M.. ME?!
YOU JUST SEEM SO COMPOSED, I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN OLD HAND...
UHH... NO, I DIDN'T MEAN..
HOW MEAN! I'M NOT EVEN MARRIED!
WA.. WAIT!
THUNK
OW!


GLUG GLUG
SPLASH!
SLIP
SQUISH
WAAH!
KYAAAAAH !!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?
I'VE BEEN FEELING STRANGE SINCE YESTERDAY.
EVER SINCE I MET YOU, I CAN'T FOCUS...
MY HEART'S BEATING THE WAY IT DID AFTER I OVERHEATED ...
SORRY !
IT WASN'T ON PUR-POSE.
CRASH


I KEEP BABBLING ...
AND I'M SO HAPPY...
AND I TOLD MYSELF IT WAS POINTLESS TO WANT SOMEONE ELSE'S WIFE.
BUT YOU HAD A CHILD ...
PRESS
MY HEART IS POUNDING TOO!
WHA WHA WHA WHAAAA !
SLIP
CAN YOU FEEL IT?

OOH!
HAA...
HAA...
HAA.
GRAB
OSHIMA
NNN...
NNN...
AA...
EQUILCH

AA...
AA...
AA...
AA!
SQUEEZE
IT SEEMS THAT WHILE MIXED BATHING WAS FREQUENTLY BANNED BEFORE THAT, IT WAS NEVER SUCCESSFULLY ENFORCED.
MIXED BATHING BECAME STRICTLY FORBIDDEN AFTER MATSUDAIRA SADANOBU'S KANSEI ERA REFORMS.
HNN.
ぱしゃ
EENH...
SLAP
ぱしゃ
AAH!
SLAP
ぱしゃ

SLAP
SLAP
GIVEN THE LOCATION, THERE WASN'T EVEN CLOTHING TO DEAL WITH, MAKING IT QUITE EASY TO DO.
DURING THE EDO PERIOD, YOUNG WOMEN WERE OFTEN HARASSED MUCH LIKE GIRLS ON TRAINS ARE TODAY.
NNN... AAAH—!
THRUST
OOH!
AAH...
AAH...
THRUST
SLAP
SLAP
PAT
PAT
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

CRACK
STAY STILL!
A LITTLE EARLY FOR YOU TO BE SO VIOLENT!
UGH!
NICE JOB, QUICK-ROPE MATSUDA!
YO, JAPAN'S BEST!
I'M COMING IN!
THWAP
NOW THEN... WORKED UP A BIT OF SWEAT DOING THAT...
GUESS I'LL TAKE A BATH AND RINSE OFF!

●『石榴口』完●

AKAZU NO MA
FORBIDDEN ROOM
THE HOME OF THE HIGHEST POWER DURING THE SHOGUNATE—THE SEI-I TAISHOGUN.
EDO CASTLE↔
INSIDE, THERE WAS A PLACE ALL MEN EXCEPT THE SHOGUN WERE FORBIDDEN TO ENTER.
THIS IS THE HALL OF BELLS—USED ONLY FOR THE SHOGUN'S PASSAGE INTO THE O-OKU (WOMEN'S QUARTERS).
がらん
CLANG
CLANG
がらん
SWOOSH
すっ

THE FORBIDDEN ROOM

◉第五話◉

不開間

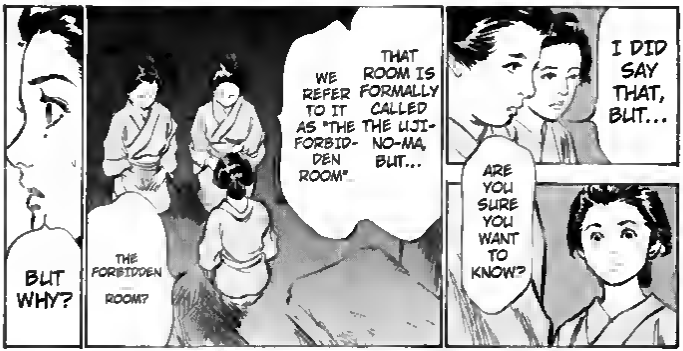
AAH...

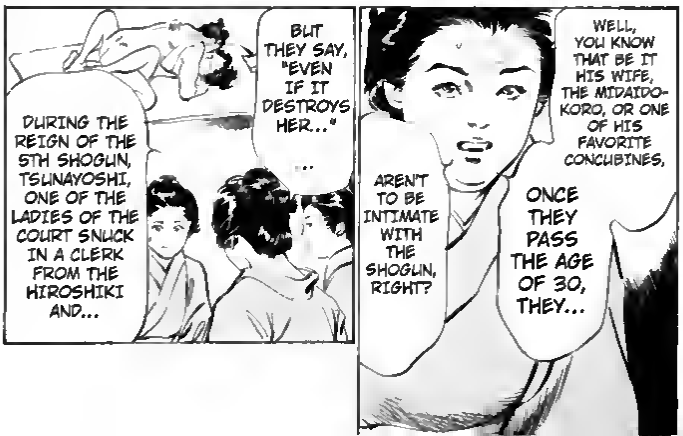
AAAH ...
WHILE THE SHOGUN AND HIS CHOSEN FOR THE NIGHT ENJOYED THEMSELVES, TWO OTHER LADIES OF THE COURT WOULD SLEEP TO EITHER SIDE OF THE COUPLE
THIS HAD BECOME A PROBLEM AND SO THE TWO CHAPERONES WERE THERE TO KEEP WATCH AND REPORT ON THE NIGHT'S PROCEEDINGS
WHY? BECAUSE DURING INTIMACY, SOME CONCUBINES WOULD BEG THE SHOGUN FOR GIFTS.
ASIDE FROM THOSE WHO TOOK PLEASURE FROM BEING WATCHED,
AND THOSE WHO ENJOYED THE WATCHING
NNN...
SQUILCH
IT SEEMS THE SHOGUN HAD HIS OWN TROU-BLES WITH IT.
WHILE THE O-OKU CONJURES UP IMAGES OF BEING THE SHOGUN'S HAREM,

TAKE CARE FOR FIRE!
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK ON FIRE PATROL.
I'LL DO MY BEST.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NEW TO IT. YOU'LL GET USED TO IT, SO BEAR WITH IT.
WITH THIS MANY ROOMS, PATROLLING FOR FIRES IS QUITE TIRING, ISN'T IT?
SLIDE...

UMM..
DID I DO SOME-THING WRONG?
ぴく JUMP
EEEK!
SLAM ばーん
DON'T!
YOU MUSTN'T OPEN THIS DOOR...
TAG
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER

SO ...
ABOUT THAT ROOM EARLIER ...
WHAT IS THE MATTER ?
YOU SAID YOU'D TELL ME THE REASON LATER.


I DID SAY THAT, BUT...
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO KNOW?
THAT ROOM IS FORMALLY CALLED THE UJI-NO-MA, BUT...
WE REFER TO IT AS "THE FORBID-DEN ROOM"
THE FORBIDDEN ROOM?
BUT WHY?


WELL, YOU KNOW THAT BE IT HIS WIFE, THE MIDAIDO-KORO, OR ONE OF HIS FAVORITE CONCUBINES,
ONCE THEY PASS THE AGE OF 30, THEY...
AREN'T TO BE INTIMATE WITH THE SHOGUN, RIGHT?
BUT THEY SAY, "EVEN IF IT DESTROYS HER..."
...
DURING THE REIGN OF THE 5TH SHOGUN, TSUNAYOSHI, ONE OF THE LADIES OF THE COURT SNUCK IN A CLERK FROM THE HIROSHIKI AND...

THEY WERE CUT DOWN?
ゴクッ
GULP

WHILE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY LITTLE TASKS NECESSARY TO KEEP THE O-OKU RUNNING, THESE MEN WERE ALSO USUALLY FORBIDDEN ENTRY INTO THE WING.
SO THE O-OKU WAS NOT COMPLETELY WITHOUT ITS MEN.
WHILE THE O-OKU WAS SUPPOSEDLY FORBIDDEN TO MEN, AT ITS ENTRANCE WAS THE HIROSHIKI-FACING OFFICE— A PLACE NEAR THE O-OKU FILLED WITH MEN ..
WHO SAW TO THE PROTECTION AND OTHER TASKS FOR THE WING, AS WELL AS PROVIDING MEALS FOR THE OTHER GUARDS OF THE O-OKU.
YOU DON'T MEAN ...
THEY APPEAR
SINCE THEN ...
YOU MUSTN'T SPEAK OF THIS OUTSIDE THESE WALLS, BUT...
ONCE, WHEN THE SHOGUN WAS PASSING BY IN FRONT OF THE UJI-NO-MA ...

WHY IS THAT WOMAN IN MY PRESENCE?
RIGHT THERE!
THAT OLD WOMAN WITH THE BLACKENED TOOTH...
WHAT WOMAN IS THAT?
SHE'S... GONE!
YOU DIDN'T SEE HER?!

MY LORD!
THE SHOGUN PASSED AWAY NOT THREE MONTHS LATER.
AND NOT JUST THE SHOGUN, BUT ANY WHO SEE HER WILL DIE WITHIN THREE MONTHS.
SINCE THEN, WHENEVER THE BLACK-TOOTHED OLD WOMAN APPEARS IN FRONT OF THAT ROOM, THE SHOGUN WILL TAKE ILL...
SHAKE
SHAKE
THUS, THE FORBIDDEN ROOM HAS BECOME A PLACE WHICH MUST NEVER BE OPENED.

HUH ?
JUST KIDDING!
HEH.. HAHAH AHAHA!
TEASING THE FRESH BLOOD AGAIN?
DON'T TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY
THAT ROOM..THE UJI-NO-MA IS MEANT FOR THE HEIR.
PHEW
IHA IHA IHA IHA
THERE HASN'T BEEN A DIRECT HEIR FOR THE PAST TWO SHOGUNS, SO IT JUST ISN'T BEING USED.
EITHER WAY, IT'S A SPECIAL ROOM, SO DON'T ENTER WITHOUT PROPER CONSIDERATION.
IHA IHA IHA IHA IHA

SLIDE-

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS...
ばっ
GRAB

NNN...
NNN.
NNN
RUSTLE
SQUEEZE
NNN HAA ...
AA...
SQUEEZE

EVEN FOR A CONCUBINE PAST THE AGE OF 30...
IT'S THE LAW OF THE OOKU THAT WE REFRAIN FROM INTIMACY ...
... BUT ...
BUT!
THIS IS WHAT I WANTED.
AAAAA!
THRUST
NNNH
SQUILCH
SQUILCH

NOBODY WILL COME.
I'VE SPREAD RUMORS THAT THIS IS A "FORBIDDEN ROOM".
YOU'RE TOO LOUD!
SOFTLY!
OOH ...
SQUELCH
BEEEENH
AAH ...
AA!
NNNAA!
SQUELCH
SQUELCH

IF WE KEEP DOING THIS, WE'LL BE FOUND OUT ONE DAY.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I'LL HAVE TO COMMIT SEPPUKU AND MY FAMILY WILL BE DESTROYED ...
I'M AFRAID.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...WE SHOULD END THIS SOON.
WHAT A SPINELESS COWARD YOU ARE.
I'D HEARD THAT THE MEN OF THE HIROSHIKI WERE DESCENDANTS OF THE IGA NINJA CLAN, BUT.
ONCE MORE ...
MORE IMPORT-ANTLY ..HMM?
DIDN'T I SAY SO EARLIER?
I'VE SPREAD RUMORS ABOUT THIS PLACE. NOBODY WILL COME NEAR HERE.

WHILE THE LADY OF THE UJI-NO-MA IS JUST A RUMOR,
SOME OF THEM... REALLY DO HAUNT HERE.
DURING THE GREAT FIRE, THE DAIMYO OF THE KAIYAMURA CLAN AKIMOTOECCHU-NO-KAMI LEAPT INTO THE OOKU,
AND NEVER CAME OUT...
BY THEM... YOU MEAN GHOSTS?
I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE ...
EVEN AFTER THE FIRE, HIS REMAINS WERE NEVER FOUND...
THEN WHERE DID HE GO?
PROBABLY
INTO THE MIDAIDOKORO'S TOILET
WHAAA?
BE QUIET!

A FEW YEARS LATER, WHEN THE SITE WAS EXCAVATED,
IT SEEMS THAT THERE WERE REMAINS OF MEN MIXED INTO HER WASTE...
THE TOILET OF THE MIDAIDOKO—THE SHOGUN'S WIFE—WAS NEVER EMPTIED DURING HER LIFETIME.
A DEEP HOLE WOULD BE DUG AND THEN UPON HER DEATH, FILLED.
THOSE WHO DISAPPEAR ARE NEVER SEEN AGAIN!
AND THAT ON DAYS OF CONSTRUCTION—SUCH AS LAYING FRESH TATAMI—WORKERS SOMETIMES DISAPPEAR.
EVEN NOW, IT'S SAID THAT WOMEN SECRETLY THROW THEIR ABORTED ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN INTO IT...
A...
TEST ?
SO ...
WE MAKE THE NEWLY-ENTERED TAKE A SMALL TEST OF COURAGE.

*裏向きで水仕事や雑役をする女のこと

I JUST NEED TO LEAVE THE CHARM AND THEN I CAN GO BACK.
...THIS IS IT, RIGHT ?
SLIDE

YAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
AAAAAA AHH—
WA... WAIT!
IF YOU'RE TOO LOUD...
SOMEONE WILL FIND M..
AND THUS, THE GHOST STORIES SURROUNDING EDO CASTLE CONTINUE TO GROW...

DEFLOWERING

◉第六話◉

水揚げ

SHIMAYA
SIGH ...
AKANE
EVERY TIME YOU SIGH, YOU LOSE A LITTLE HAPPI-NESS,
HATSUKAZE

HAT'SU-KAZE..
IS THE FIRST TIME REALLY SCARY?
I GET IT ...
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR YOUR DE-FLOWER-ING CEREMONY

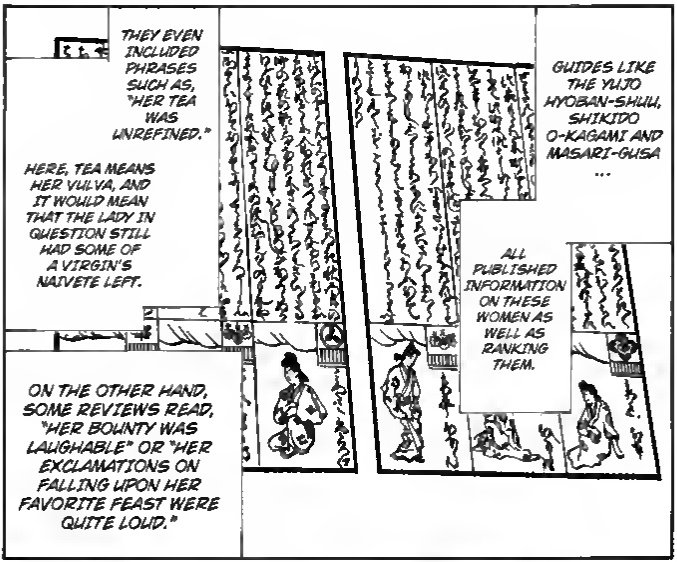
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, I'VE FORGOTTEN!
AHAHAHAHA.. WELL...

THE CONTRACTS FOR THE WOMEN OF YOSHIWARA LASTED UNTIL THE END OF THEIR 27TH YEAR.
QUITE DIFFERENT FROM MYSELF. I DON'T HAVE A MAN WAITING FOR ME.
YOU'LL BE FINE! YOU'RE CLEVER.
BEFORE THEIR CONTRACT WAS UP THEIR PATHS COULD GO ANY NUMBER OF DIRECTIONS. THEIR CONTRACT COULD BE BOUGHT OUT BEFORE IT ENDED OR THEY COULD WAIT FOR THEIR TIME TO FINISH BEFORE BEGINNING ANEW WITH THEIR "MA-BU"--THE MAN THEY LOVED.
IT'LL BE FINE ...

AN "OLD WOMAN" AT 27 ...
WHEN MY CONTRACT FINISHES NEXT YEAR, I'LL HAVE TO BECOME A MADAM.
HOWEVER, MANY OF THESE WOMEN CAME TO THE YOSHIWARA YOUNG AND KNEW NOTHING OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD. OFTEN, THEY REMAINED AS TRAINERS AND MADAMS OF THE DISTRICT.
WELL, HMMM ...
SUCH AS?
ONCE YOU'VE PASSED YOUR DEFLOWERING, I'LL TEACH YOU SOME TECHNIQUES FOR FOOLING YOUR CUSTOMERS.
THANK YOU ...
HATSUKAZE-NEE-SAN
HEE
AAH
GAAH
AAH
LIKE WHEN YOU PRETEND TO ORGASM, HOLD YOUR NOSE LIKE THIS...
AA...
I'M...
CO...
COMING ...!
AHAHAHAHA
あはは
はは

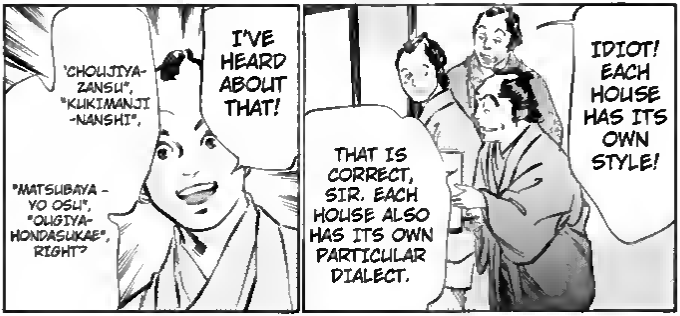
I'VE FOOLED MANY A MAN THAT WAY.
CLIENTS WHO FEEL DOWN THERE CAN TELL WHEN YOU'RE FAKING.
IS THAT TRUE?
THEY REALLY BELIEVE YOU'VE ORGASMED, AND ARE PLEASED WITH THEMSELVES
MEN ARE PRIDEFUL CREATURES, SO BY HOLDING YOUR NOSE TO CHANGE THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE,
PINCHING THE NOSE HAS OTHER USES, TOO.
AHAHAHA
SO IT SOUNDS REAL.
PINCHING YOUR NOSE AND HOLDING YOUR BREATH MAKES YOUR VOICE MORE SULTRY.
PSSS
PSSS
PSSS

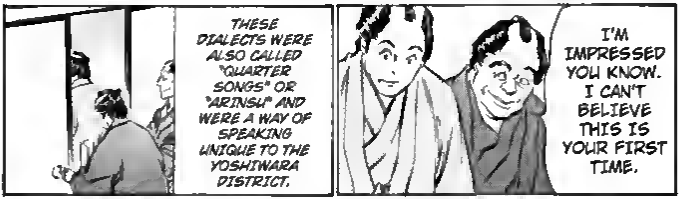
ASAGI-URA. COUNTRY-FOLK WERE CALLED THIS BECAUSE THE BACK OF THE HAORI MOST COUNTRY SAMURAI WORE WERE MADE OF ASAGI COTTON.
YOU AREN'T SOME ASAGI -URA.
STOP GAWK-ING!
HEY, MASAJI ...
YOSHI-WARA'S AWFULLY CLEAN.
RI... RIGHT!
SNICKER
SNICKER
SNICKER
SNICKER
THE SEX TRADE WAS MORE OPEN IN SOME WAYS DURING THE EDO THAN IT IS TODAY...
WE'RE GOING TO SHIKIYA, WHICH IS A MIDDLE GRADE HOUSE
YOUR PARTNER FOR YOUR DEFLOWERING IS THE COURTESAN TSUKISHIMA-OIRAN, SHE'S RANKED IN THE 4TH HIGHEST CLASS OF THE "GUIDE TO NIGHT LIFE"
TCH! YOU'VE MADE ME A LAUGHING-STOCK NOW TOO!
SO... SORRY.
IT'S MY FIRST TIME SO I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ACT...


THEY EVEN INCLUDED PHRASES SUCH AS, "HER TEA WAS UNREFINED."
HERE, TEA MEANS HER VULVA, AND IT WOULD MEAN THAT THE LADY IN QUESTION STILL HAD SOME OF A VIRGIN'S NAIVETE LEFT.
ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME REVIEWS READ, "HER BOUNTY WAS LAUGHABLE" OR "HER EXCLAMATIONS ON FALLING UPON HER FAVORITE FEAST WERE QUITE LOUD."
GUIDES LIKE THE YUJO HYOBAN-SHUU, SHIKIDO O-KAGAMI AND MASARI-GUSA ...
ALL PUBLISHED INFORMATION ON THESE WOMEN AS WELL AS RANKING THEM.

HMMM ...
AH! PROOF
IS THAT SO?
IF THEY DON'T HAVE AN ACCOMPLISHED LOVER LIKE ME DO IT,
THE GIRLS GET HURT AND IT CAN BE PROBLEM-ATIC
SO YOU'LL BE WITH A VI... VIRGIN ?
TRUTH IS, SUGIZO ...
I'M PARTICI-PATING IN A DEFLOWER-ING TONIGHT, TOO.
EVEN DURING THE EDO PERIOD, OVERLY LUSTY OR LOUD WOMEN WERE DISLIKED.

IT'S A FULL MOON TONIGHT, BUT WE CAN'T SEE IT BECAUSE OF THE CLOUDS.
志摩屋
HI!
WELCOME! WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!!
IS THIS YOUR NEPHEW ?
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU.
IF YOU'LL WAIT A MINUTE, THE SAKE WILL TAKE JUST A MOMENT TO PREPARE.
THE SAKE CAN WAIT UNTIL AFTER.
I REALIZE IT'S IMPROPER, BUT I'D LIKE TO GET THIS OVER WITH.
OH? IS THAT RIGHT?
THEN PLEASE, RIGHT THIS WAY.
TSUKISHIMA -OIRAN IS A TAD SHY. SO .
PLEASE EXTIN-GUISH THE LIGHT AND WAIT FOR HER.
THE LIGHT ?
I DON'T RECALL SEEING THAT IN THE "HYOUBAN -KI"...

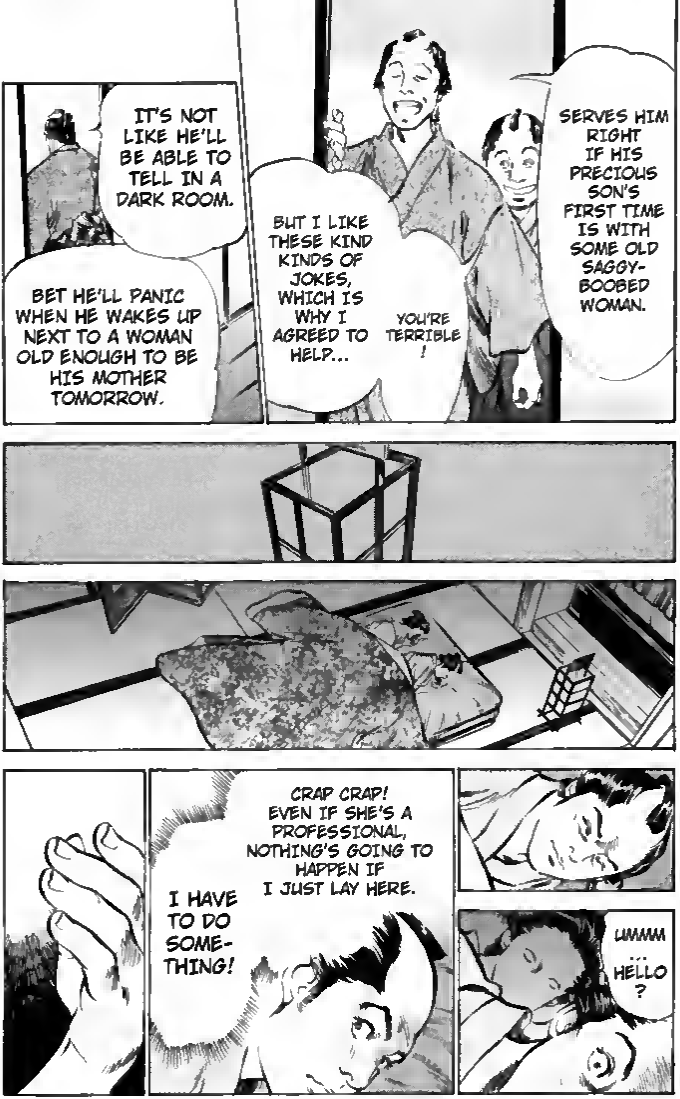

I'VE HEARD ABOUT THAT!
'CHOUJIYA-ZANSU', "KUKIMANJI-NANSHI", "MATSUBAYA-YO OSU", "OUGIYA-HONDASUKAE", RIGHT?
IDIOT! EACH HOUSE HAS ITS OWN STYLE!
THAT IS CORRECT, SIR. EACH HOUSE ALSO HAS ITS OWN PARTICULAR DIALECT.


THESE DIALECTS WERE ALSO CALLED "QUARTER SONGS" OR "ARINSU" AND WERE A WAY OF SPEAKING UNIQUE TO THE YOSHIWARA DISTRICT.
I'M IMPRESSED YOU KNOW. I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME.

AS THE LADIES OF THE DISTRICT WERE OFTEN FROM THE COUNTRY-SIDE, THEY MADE USE OF THE SPECIAL DIALECTS TO HIDE THEIR OWN ACCENTS.
THE 'QUARTER LYRICS' OF SHIMABARA ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN THE BEGINNING— THE CHANGES WERE SIMPLE ENOUGH THAT THE BUMPKINS WERE FLUENT IN IT WITHIN 10 DAYS.
THE ONLY PLACES TO USE THESE DIALECTS, HOWEVER, WERE THE MORE UPSCALE AND LARGER BROTHELS. SMALLER ONES SUCH AS THOSE SUGIZO WENT TO WOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED WITH IT.
PUFF

SSS
PARDON ME.

WHAT KIND OF FACE WOULD SHE MAKE IF I JUST LAID THERE?
IS THIS MY ROOM?
LUCKLY, THE MOON IS MIDDEN BEHIND THE CLOUDS TONIGHT
THIS IS HER FIRST TIME, SO PLEASE BE GENTLE.
SHE'S SHY, SO IF YOU DON'T MIND...
I UNDERSTAND. SO I SHOULD KEEP THE ROOM DARK?
THEY ARE DELICATE.
PLEASE DON'T TEASE THE YOUNG BUDS.
AS YOU REQUESTED, I'VE PREPARED AN OLDER WOMAN WITH OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
OH... ABOUT THE COURTESAN HE'LL BE SEEING ..
NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUGIZO'S SITUATION AND MINE TONIGHT THEN.
TELLING ME TO SETTLE DOWN, STOP FLIRTING... IT NEVER ENDS.
SUGIZO'S DAD—MY OLDER BROTHER—
HE'S ALWAYS LECTURING ME...
YOU'VE PAIRED HIM WITH AN OLD WOMAN!
OVER 30 YEARS? THAT'S NOT A COURTESAN, IT'S A FORMER COURTESAN.


IT'S NOT LIKE HE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL IN A DARK ROOM.
BET HE'LL PANIC WHEN HE WAKES UP NEXT TO A WOMAN OLD ENOUGH TO BE HIS MOTHER TOMORROW.
BUT I LIKE THESE KIND KINDS OF JOKES, WHICH IS WHY I AGREED TO HELP...
YOU'RE TERRIBLE!
SERVES HIM RIGHT IF HIS PRECIOUS SON'S FIRST TIME IS WITH SOME OLD SAGGY-BOOBED WOMAN.
CRAP CRAP! EVEN IF SHE'S A PROFESSIONAL, NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN IF I JUST LAY HERE.
I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING!
UMMM... HELLO?

I PANICKED A LITTLE
ARE YOU ANGRY?
S... SORRY!
OW... OUCH!
GRAB
TUG
IT'S NOT POWDER OR HAIR OIL...
WHAT'S THAT? THERE'S A FAINT, SWEET SCENT...
SLURP

すう
SLIDE
YOU ARRIVED FASTER THAN I EXPECTED.
OH!
LET'S ENJOY OUR-SELVES TONIGHT...
HEH HEH HEH JUST AS I THOUGHT. SHE'S PANICKING
I GUESS THAT'S ENOUGH TEASING ...
OHHH ?!
SQUEEZE

NNN...
HAA...
BAM!
PLEASE ...NO MORE ...
IS SHE AROUSED BY MY TONGUE TECHNIQUE ?
OR IS SHE JUST TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL GOOD?
UMMM ...WHY?
UGUGH
HICCOUGH UWAAAA
ARE YOU CRYING? BUT WHY?

AEE...
EEE
...LILIGH!
OOH...
PLUMP
OHH!
PLUMP
OOH...
TWIST
TWIST

SHUDDER
OH MY, DID YOU COME JUST BY MY HAND?
IT IS YOUR FIRST TIME, I GUESS ...
EEELUNGH!
MY FIRST ?!
YOU MEAN, YOUR FIRST!
SPURT SPURT
CLAMP
NO, WAIT. THERE'S NO WAY A VIRGIN WOULD HAVE THOSE SKILLS.
THEN... I'M IN THE WRONG ROOM?
PROB-ABLY ...

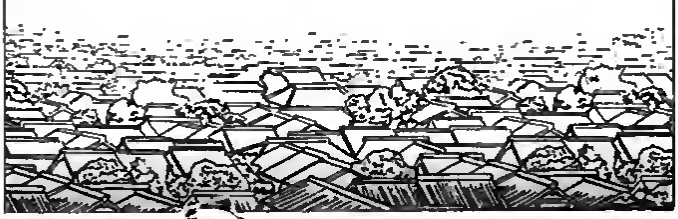
BUT SINCE NOBODY HAS COME TO INFORM US OF THE MISTAKE,
MORE LIKE. MASAJI'S A BIT OF A PLAYER, SO...
THAT MUST MEAN THEY ARE ENJOYING THEM-SELVES.
EVEN IF IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, HE'D PROBABLY GO ALONG WITH IT
UHHHH ...
YOU FIRST.
OH NO, PLEASE, GO AHEAD.
IF... IF YOU DON'T MIND...
WOULD YOU STAY WITH ME FOR THE NIGHT?
ARE YOU SURE ?
AN EXPERIENCED COURTESAN WOULD BE MORE
I DON'T WANT ANYONE BUT YOU!
...IF YOU'RE SURE I'M GOOD ENOUGH ...

WHO KNEW YOU'D HAVE SUCH SKILL...
I WAS CARE-LESS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU SAID YOU HAVE A THING FOR WOMEN WITH A MOLE UNDER ONE EYE.
YOU WERE CURSING.
MY DEAD MOTHER HAD A MOLE LIKE THAT.
THAT'S WHY...
OOH...
HOW CHARMING
CLENCH
CLENCH
AAAA...!

SQUEEZE
WHAT !!
WHA WHHA ...
IT DOESN'T WANT TO DO WHAT I WANT IT TO.
SORRY... I SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN AHEAD OF MYSELF ...
I'M SORRY !
BUT HATSUKZE-NEE-SAN SAID THAT WHEN A MAN IS HAVING ERECTILE ISSUES IF YOU PINCH HIS NOSE SHUT, THAT SHOULD WAKE IT UP
HUH?
TWITCH
TWITCH
PINCHING THE NOSE CAUSES BLOOD TO FLOW TO THE LOWER HALF OF THE BODY.
IS THAT SOME YOSHIWARA CHARM? IF THAT WAS ALL IT TOOK, THEN...

PLEASE BE GENTLE.
UMMM ....
NNNAA
NUDGE
OOH ...
NNN
AA...
AAH!
AAH ...
AAH ...
OOH
EE... AAOOH ...!
AAH ...

AAHH!
OOH!
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
GYUU!
HEY, HEY,
PLEASE FORGIVE ME! IT WAS A MISTAKE...

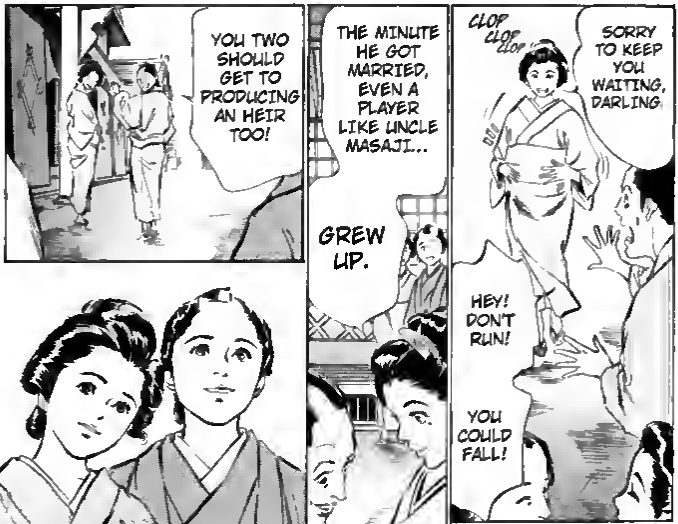


THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!
CLOTHING

HMMM. MAYBE MARK IT TO HALF-PRICE?
ABOUT THIS FABRIC ...
HUSBAND!
HEY, YOU LOVEBIRDS! WORKING HARD?
MASAJI!
CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP

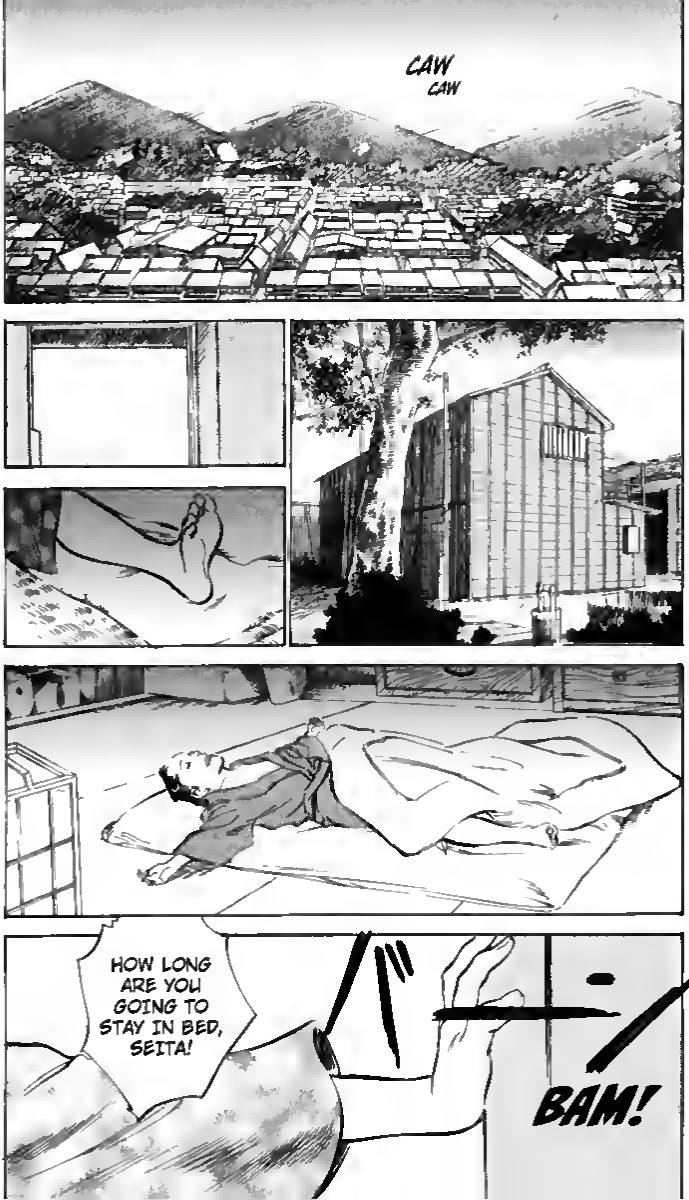
BUT IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WOULD KILL YOUR OLD MAN IF I SAID "NO."
WHEN YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BUY AKANE'S CONTRACT, I WAS SHOCKED.
THANK YOU FOR HELPING US!

TO BUY A CHARM FOR SAFE BIRTH ...
HM? OH...TO SUITENGU ...
WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO TODAY?


YOU TWO SHOULD GET TO PRODUCING AN HEIR TOO!
THE MINUTE HE GOT MARRIED, EVEN A PLAYER LIKE UNCLE MASAJI...
GREW UP.
CLOP clop clop
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, DARLING
HEY! DON'T RUN!
YOU COULD FALL!

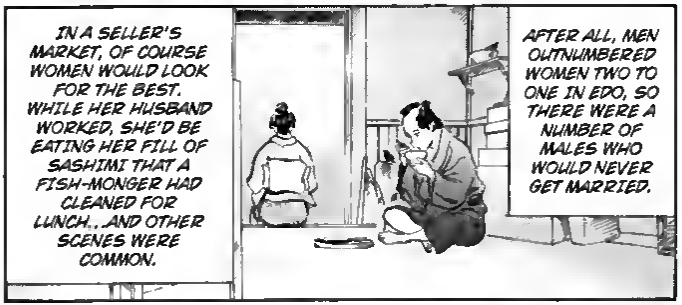
END

第七話
夢芝居
DREAM PLAY


CAW
CAW
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY IN BED, SEITA!
BAM!

THE SUN IS ALREADY HIGH.
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO THE MASTER CARPENTER'S?
WAAHH? THAT YOU, OKOTO?
MY APPOINTMENT IS THIS AFTERNOON.
I BROUGHT FOOD. HURRY AND EAT.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN BE LAZY!
GRAB
UWAAH!
FLOP
IS THAT SOMETHING A GIRL YOUR AGE SHOULD SAY?
AHAHAHAH! LITTLE SEITA IS PEEKING OUT...
YOU CAN'T EVEN TIE YOUR FUNDOSHI.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

WHILE WE OFTEN THINK OF THE EDO PERIOD AS CHAUVINISTIC, IT WASN'T ALL THAT WAY.
BUT FOR MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND'S, WELL...
IF IT HAD BEEN KIKUSABURO'S LITTLE KIKUSABURO THAT I SAW,
I MIGHT HAVE BLUSHED A LITTLE.

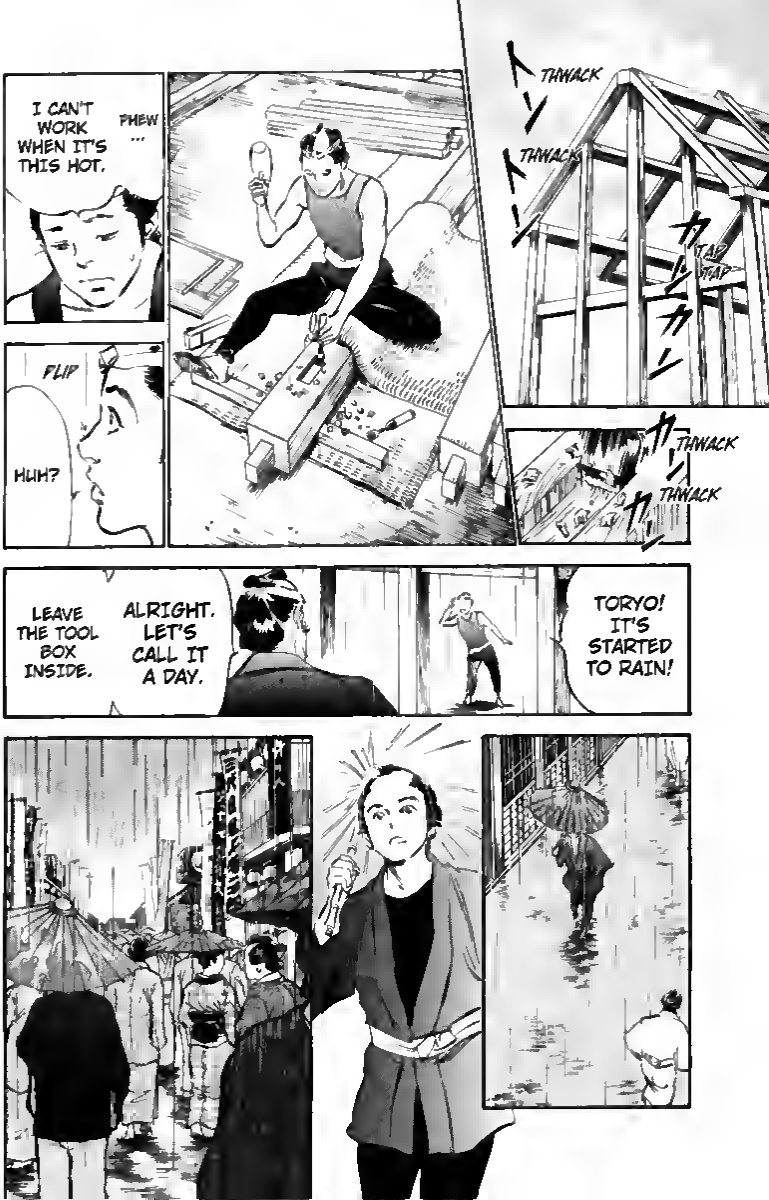

IN A SELLER'S MARKET, OF COURSE WOMEN WOULD LOOK FOR THE BEST. WHILE HER HUSBAND WORKED, SHE'D BE EATING HER FILL OF SASHIMI THAT A FISH-MONGER HAD CLEANED FOR LUNCH...AND OTHER SCENES WERE COMMON.
AFTER ALL, MEN OUTNUMBERED WOMEN TWO TO ONE IN EDO, SO THERE WERE A NUMBER OF MALES WHO WOULD NEVER GET MARRIED.

HEHEHEH, I'M GOING TO GO TO A PLAY THE NAKAMURA TROUPE IS DOING.
STOP GRINNING LIKE THAT, IT'S CREEPY
LET ME GUESS, ANOTHER PICTURE OF KIKUSA-BURO?
THE MEN OF EDO PREFERRED SUCH FEISTY WOMEN, CALLING THEM "KYAN."

SO YOU'RE GOING TO SNEAK OFF TO SEE IT?
I DON'T APPROVE.
THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D DO THAT.
I'M IMPRESSED YOUR MOTHER AGREED TO THAT
IF I DON'T GO, WHO KNOW WHEN I'LL GET ANOTHER CHANCE?
KIKU-SABURO WILL BE THERE.
WHEN A YOUNG GIRL IS THERE,
THEY HARASS HER.
THERE ARE A LOT OF UNSAVORY CUSTOMERS IN THOSE SEATS
MAYBE IF YOU SAT IN THE SAJIKI SECTION, BUT WITH YOUR ALLOWANCE, THE BEST YOU'LL BE ABLE TO AFFORD IS A SEAT IN THE HIRADOMA.
LIKE, UM.. YOU KNOW ...
UNSAVORY CUSTOMERS ?

DURING THE KANEI ERA (1624-1644) THE SEATS IN THE SAJIKI SECTION RAN ABOUT 25 SILVER MONME— ABOUT 1700 MON.
THE SAJIKI SECTIONS TO THE LEFT AND RIGHT OF THE HIRADOMA REQUIRED GOING THROUGH THE THEATRE'S TEA SHOP TO PURCHASE. IN ADDITION TO THE TICKET PRICE, THIS REQUIRED PAYING FOR A MEAL AND GRATUITY, SO THESE SEATS WERE FAIRLY EXPENSIVE
WITHIN THE THEATRE DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE STAGE WAS SMALL SQUARE AREAS DIVIDED BY PLANKS. THIS WAS THE HIRADOMA SECTION. EACH SQUARE SEATED SEVERAL GUESTS.
IT WAS GENERALLY TOO EXPENSIVE TO SEE THE ENTIRE PLAY, SO THE AVERAGE PERSON PAID BY THE ACT AND WATCHED STANDING. THIS GENERALLY COST ABOUT 16 MON PER ACT.
IN COMPARISON, THE PRICE FOR ENTRANCE TO A VARIETY SHOW AROUND THE SAME TIME WAS BETWEEN 10 MON TO 30 MON. EVEN POPULAR RAKUGO ACTS MIGHT ONLY BE PRICED AT 50 MON. OBVIOUSLY, KABUKI THEATRE WAS THE KING OF ENTERTAINMENT DURING THE EDO PERIOD.

HARASS?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, YOU KNOW...
THEY TOUCH HER BUTT AND THIGHS OR RUB AGAINST HER...
AND FINISH BY... WELL...
PUTTING THEIR HAND BETWEEN HER LEGS.. AND SUCH...
OH— IS THAT ALL?
AHAHA HA!
BUT WHEN THE ONE DOING IT LOOKS LIKE HE BELONGS TO THE YAKUZA...
IF ANYBODY DARES, I'LL GIVE HIM A GOOD ONE.
YOU CAN LAUGH NOW,
THERE'S A LIMIT TO BEING INDEPENDENT
YOU'RE GOING TO GET HURT ONE DAY IF YOU OVER-ESTIMATE YOURSELF!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM A MAN WHO CAN'T KEEP HIMSELF IN HIS UNDERWEAR.
SCOWL
OKOTO AND I GREW UP TOGETHER— WE'RE PRACTICALLY SIBLINGS, BUT...
I'D LIKE IT IF SHE'D TREAT ME A LITTLE MORE LIKE A MAN.


I CAN'T WORK WHEN IT'S THIS HOT.
PHEW ...
FLIP
HUH?
THWACK
THWACK
TAP TAP
THWACK
THWACK
LEAVE THE TOOL BOX INSIDE.
ALRIGHT. LET'S CALL IT A DAY.
TORYO! IT'S STARTED TO RAIN!

三代目尾上菊三郎
OGAMI KIKUSABUROU THE 3RD
THAT MUST BE WHERE OKOTO WAS TALKING ABOUT...
GUESS SINCE WORK FINISHED EARLY,
I MIGHT AS WELL GO AND SEE THE FAMED MALE BEAUTY THAT PEOPLE IN KYOTO RAVE ABOUT...
YUP.
WHERE COULD SHE BE SITTING?
TWIST

OH, THERE SHE IS!
CAME BY HERSELF, AS I THOUGHT ...
HM?!
THAT GUY NEXT TO HER...
WHO'S HE?
NO ... STOP.
STOP ... IT...
COMING TO WATCH THE PLAY BY YOURSELF ...
THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE REALLY AFTER, RIGHT?

THIS MADE THEATRES POPULAR WITH COUPLES RENDEZ-VOUSING AND FOR YOUNG MEN TO FIND WOMEN TO PICK UP OR MOLEST.
UNLIKE TODAY, THERE WAS LITTLE ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING DURING THE EDO PERIOD, SO THEATRES WERE FAIRLY DARK AT ALL TIMES.
S... SEITA!
OW!

DON'T TOUCH MY GIRL!
SHUT UP, SHUT UP,
SHUT UP!
THAT HURT! WHAT WAS THAT FOR!

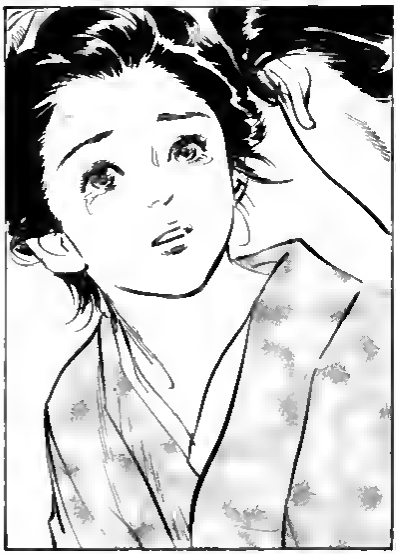
YOU DIDN'T MOVE SO I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T MIND.
TCH! SAY SO IF YOU HAVE A DATE NEXT TIME.
PANT PANT
KEEP QUIET! YOU'RE INTERFERING WITH THE PLAY.
HOO...

YOU IDOT!
AIR FOR BRAINS!
NO-GOOD...
SWALLOW A
STONE AND DIE!
WAAH!
YOU... NUM-SKULL!
WHY'D YOU ...
I JUST SAVED YOU..
AND THAT'S HOW YOU ACT?
SCRUNCH
I HATE YOU!
OKOTO ...

TA TA TA
WHY ARE YOU MAD?
I'M NOT MAD.
THAT'S NOT HOW A CALM PERSON WOULD SAY THAT.
AND AFTER I SAVED YOU...
I NEVER ASKED YOU TO.
SO YOU WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO BE MOLESTED LIKE THAT?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT!
THEN, WHY ARE YOU UPSET !?
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE ABOUT TO CRY.
WAAH !
WA.. WAAH ...
STOP, STOP! STOP IT, OKOTO!

TAP
OKOTO—
YOU...
EEK–
SNAP
THUMP

YOU SAID I WAS YOUR GIRL IN FRONT OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE.. YOU'VE NEVER EVEN HINTED..
SAID WHAT?
HICCUP
... I WAS HAPPY ...
YOU SAVED ME...
...BUT THEN YOU
... WENT AND SAID THAT...
HICCUP
ARE YOU OKAY?



OKOTO
LOOK AT ME.

DON'T BE STUBBORN, OKAY?
I'M SORRY.

SEITA
....
mmm
mmm

SLIP
AAH!
CLING
WHAT AM I DOING !?
GRAB
S... SORRY!
YOU JUST HAD THAT HAPPEN AND...
I WAS JUST A LITTLE SUR-PRISED.
IT'S OKAY. I DON'T MIND.
SLIDE

TEN YEARS SINCE I LAST TOUCHED HER THERE...
PRESS
IT'S BECOME COVERED WITH FINE HAIR.
WET AND WARM...
SSH
AND FEELS A LITTLE STRANGE.
THERE ...IT FEELS GOOD, SEITA.
I FEEL... GOOD ...
NNN ...
AAH ...
HEHEHE HEHEH. YOU CAN'T DO THIS, OKOTO...
YOU DON'T HAVE A PENIS.
I'LL GET ONE EVEN-TUALLY!
SEE! LOOK HERE.
I HAVE A LITTLE PENIS BUD.
ぱっ

THIS'LL BECOME A PENIS?
JAB
AAH...
HM? WHAT'S WRONG?
THWAP
STUPID SEITA!
OWW!
WHAT WAS THAT FO...?
SAY... OKOTO....
HM?

C'MON, TELL ME!
PLEASE, OKOTO—
DON'T ASK ME THAT!
!
DID IT FEEL GOOD THEN, TOO?
STU ...
PID ...
PSST PSST
OKOTO!
SEITA ....

AAH
...
THRUST
NUDGE
!

AND I THOUGHT... "SHE'S SO ADORABLE."
SHIVERING, OKOTO CLUNG TO ME DESPERATELY.
I'D NEVER SEEN HER THAT WAY BEFORE.
SEITA! SEITA!
SEITA ...
I'M ...
O...OKOTO ...!...
I... WAS COMPLETELY SATISFIED.
SHUDDER

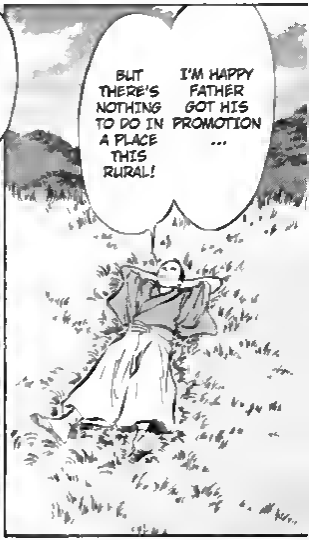
CRAP!
DON'T YOU START CONSTRUCTION ON SAKAI'S MANSION TODAY?
GET UP!
AS FOR OKOTO AND I...
AS AN APPRENTICE, AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU SHOULD BE THERE THE EARLIEST!
WE'RE THE SAME AS ALWAYS
I'M OFF!
CAN'T KEEP YOUR STRENGTH UP WITHOUT BREAKFAST, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU STARING IT?
IT'S EMBARRASSING
BE CAREFUL!

DREAM PLAY / END

NIGHT VISIT
◉第八話◉
夜這い

HAAAA-
....

I MISS EDO...


I'M HAPPY FATHER GOT HIS PROMOTION ...
BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO DO IN A PLACE THIS RURAL!

HAAAAH

PLOP
ポト
PLOP
ポト

SPRING
OOH ?!
SSSS-
WILT
WOMEN HERE EVEN PEE STANDING !

EVIDENTLY WOMEN IN THE KANSAI REGION WOULD COMMONLY PEE FROM A STOOPED POSITION.
CALLED "THE UPRIGHT URINATION OF KYOTO WOMEN"...

NO MAKE-UP, BUT I GUESS THEY'D BE "JEWELS IN A DUNG-HILL?"

SORRY FOR BEING A DUNGHILL!
ARE YOU THE SON OF THE NEW RICE CLERK?
YEAH... THAT'S ME
I'M MATSUZAKI TOBE'S SON YASUJIRO
HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, ZENBE.
I'M ICHIZO MURAEDA.
ARE YOU LOOKING DOWN ON US WITH THAT POLISHED EDO ACCENT OF YOURS?
OH, UM... SORRY ...I'M NOT REALLY FAMILIAR WITH THE AREA'S DIALECT YET.
RE... REALLY !?
KNOW IT? I WAS BORN IN ASAKUSA.
YOSHI-WARA'S LIKE MY PLAYG-ROUND.
SO YOU WERE BORN AND RAISED IN EDO?
THEN YOU KNOW ABOUT YOSHI-WARA?

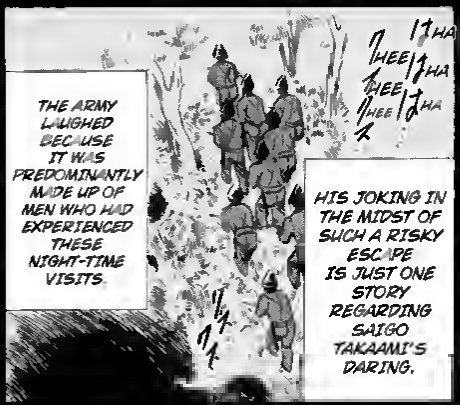
OUR DEAD GRANDDAD WENT ONCE, AND...
SAID IT WAS LIKE THE DRAGON PALACE.
THIS ISN'T THE TALE OF URASHIMA-TARO, SO THERE AREN'T ANY DANCING FISH.
DRAGON PALACE
BUT I GUESS TO AN ASAGIURA, IT MIGHT SEEM LIKE THE DRAGON PALACE OR NIRVANA.
WHAT'S AN ASAGI-URA?
AH..UH ...
IT'S WHAT SOMEONE WHO'S...ER... WHO HASN'T LIVED IN EDO FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME IS CALLED
OOOH ...
SO WHAT'S YOSHIWARA LIKE?
WELL ....
IN THE MIDDLE OF A DARK FIELD, ONLY "NAKA" IS ALL LIT UP....
WHAT'S "NAKA?"
YOSHIWARA'S MAIN ROAD, NAKANOMACHI, IS CALLED "NAKA" FOR SHORT.

AT THE WILLOW TREE, MANY PEOPLE TURN BACK FOR ONE LAST GLIMPSE OF THE YOSHIWARA, SO IT'S CALLED THE "WILLOW OF LONGING SIGHS."
EVEN THE NAMES OF TREES IN YOSHIWARA ARE PROVOCATIVE.
THAT'S THE WALK THAT ONE DOES THE MORNING AFTER A NIGHT IN THE YOSHI-WARA.
IF YOU GO STRAIGHT FROM SENSO TEMPLE'S EASTERN UMAMICHI STREET, YOU HIT SANYABORI.
FROM THERE, WALK ABOUT 50 METERS AND THERE'S A WILLOW TREE...
GIVE US DETAILS!
EAGER
NOT THAT I'VE EVER BOUGHT ONE— SEEING AS I'M FROM A POOR SAMURAI FAMILY.
WHEN YOU ENTER THE MAIN GATE, YOU SEE STYLISH COURTESANS HOLDING RED PIPES.

SO THE CHEAPEST BROTHELS IN YOSHIWARA ARE KIRI-MISE?
HICCUP!
CHEAP STILL MEANS 100 MON OR MORE.
IN ALL OF THE YOSHIWARA, ONLY SEVEN PLACES MADE UP THE UPPER CLASS HOUSES— AND ONCE COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLEMAN WAS ADDED, THEY COULD RUN SOME TENS OF RYO
THERE WERE ALL SORTS OF PLACES WITHIN YOSHI-WARA.
100 MON'S A LOT.
A BOWL OF SOBA COSTS 16 MON.
USING ROOMS 1.35 METERS WIDE BY 1.8 METERS, THE WOMEN OF THESE DIVIDED LONGHOUSES WERE SAID TO BE LIKE THE MONSTER OF "RASHOMON" – WHEN A CUSTOMER WAS HOOKED, EVEN CUTTING OFF THEIR ARMS WOULDN'T GET THEM TO LET GO — HENCE, THE NICKNAME "RASHOMON BANK."
THERE THE HOUSES SPECIALIZED IN "QUICKIES" AND A CUSTOMER COULD EXPECT SERVICE ONLY FOR THE LENGTH OF A SINGLE STICK OF INCENSE.
THE CHEAPEST HOUSES WERE THOSE ON YOSHIWARA'S EAST BANK— CALLED THE RASHOMON BANK.

SPEAKING OF, YASUJIRO, WE'D LIKE YOU TO SHOW US ONE OTHER BIT OF EDO CULTURE.
YES?
THAT WOULD BE?
WE'RE GOING ON A NIGHT VISIT.
...SO WE'RE GOING TO THE HOUSE OF THOSE THREE WHO WERE PICKING HERBS?
THE FATHER'S DEAD, SO IT'S TWO DAUGHTERS AND THEIR MOTHER
THE MOTHER'S STILL YOUNG, SO IT'S PERFECT.
HOW OLD ARE THE DAUGHTERS?
THE OLDER ONE IS 19, THE YOUNGER 18 AND THE MOTHER IS 35
BUT SHE LOOKS 28, 29 AT THE MOST!
SO THAT WAS THE MOTHER.
MAYBE I'LL GO FOR THE YOUNGEST.

I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A PLAYER LIKE YOU'D WANT THE MOTHER.
ARE YOU KIDDING!?
IN THE YOSHIWARA, ONCE AN OIRAN TURNS 27, HER CONTRACT IS UP.
SOMEONE THAT OLD ISN'T A WOMAN!
A TRUE EDO PLAYBOY.
PREFER THE YOUNG FLESH, DO YOU?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
ESCAPING BY USING THE SHADOWS TO HIDE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
CHANGE THE SCENE TO THAT OF THE SATSUMA REBELLION. IN THE FACE OF COMPLETE DEFEAT DUE TO THE FIREPOWER OF THE GOVERNMENT ARMY, THE SAIGO ARMY RETREATED
HIDING IN THE SHADOWS CROUCHED DOWN LIKE THIS...
HUH?
RUSTLE
ALRIGHT, WE'LL KEEP ON LIKE THIS UNTIL MORNING


THE ARMY LAUGHED BECAUSE IT WAS PREDOMINANTLY MADE UP OF MEN WHO HAD EXPERIENCED THESE NIGHT-TIME VISITS.
HIS JOKING IN THE MIDST OF SUCH A RISKY ESCAPE IS JUST ONE STORY REGARDING SAIGO TAKAAMI'S DARING.
ALMOST LIKE WE'RE GOING ON A NIGHT VISIT.

THIS PRACTICE WAS FAIRLY COMMON IN WESTERN JAPAN.
THE BRAINS OF SAIGO'S ARMY, KIRINO TOSHIAKI AND NAKAMURA HANJIRO, WERE BOTH ATTRACTIVE MEN, SO THEY OFTEN SUCCEEDED WITH THEIR SEDUCTIONS.

THIS ISN'T DRINKING WATER.
THEN WHAT IS IT FOR?
I'M THIRSTY.
OH! YOU'RE WELL PREPARED.

SLIDE
IF YOU DAMPEN THE OUTSIDE DOOR, IT OPENS MORE QUIETLY.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE WATER WITH YOU, PEE'S OKAY TOO, BUT YOU'LL GET YELLED AT FOR IT THE NEXT MORNING.
THERE'S NO BAR IN PLACE. LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE UP FOR IT, TOO!
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
THEY'LL FIND OUT I'M STILL A VIRGIN.
IN EDO, IT'S NOT ACCEPTABLE TO FORCE YOURSELF ON A VIRGIN, SO I NEVER FOUND A GIRL TO EXPERIENCE IT WITH
IF I DON'T ...
THIS IS BAD .. CALM DOWN ...

THE COUNTRY SIDE IS MUCH MORE LIBERAL ...
IN EDO, MEN WHO WENT TO YOSHIWARA WOULDN'T TOUCH THE INEXPERIENCED AS IT WAS CONSIDERED BAD FOR THE REPUTATION.
THIS IS A BIT— OKAY, A LOT— DIFFERENT FROM OUR VIEWS TODAY.
THE YOUNGER DAUGHTER SHOULD BE IN THE ROOM NEXT TO THE CLOSET I'M GOING
G... GOT IT.
AAAH. . I WANT TO RUN AWAY BUT THEN I'LL BE A LAUGHING-STOCK
LET'S DO THIS!
GRIP

SLIDE...
AN INEXPERIENCED WOMAN WON'T NOTICE MY OWN LACK OF EXPERIENCE.
GULP
YANK

DID I GET SOME-THING WRONG ?
ECHO
WONDER IF BRO GOT THE ELBOW AGAIN TRYING TO FORCE HIS WAY.
URK ...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ANYWAY, SHE'S NOT AROUND HERE
MAYBE SHE'S IN THE OTHER BUILDING ...

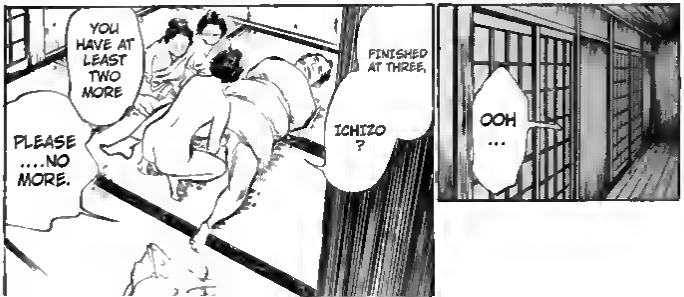
UHH...
LOOKS LIKE THIS ISN'T THE ONLY THING THAT'S UP...
NNN?
UWAAA... ICHIZO IS REALLY BIG, HUH?
ICHIZO
REJECTING MY INVITATION TO COME HERE FOR A VISIT... YOU'VE GOT GUTS
UPFFMMMGU!

IT'S JUST YOUR BAD LUCK THAT I WAS HERE TONIGHT.
SUCK
AA...
SQUILCH
THE RULES AND MANNERS FOR NIGHT VISITS VARIED FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE, REGION TO REGION.
IN SOME, ANYBODY WAS FAIR GAME, WHILE IN OTHERS A MARRIED WOMAN MIGHT BE OFF-LIMITS BUT WIDOWS WOULD BE OKAY.
FOR SOME, SINGLE WOMEN WERE ACCEPTABLE TARGETS BUT PRE-PUBESCENT GIRLS WERE NOT.
THE ONLY POINT THEY ALL AGREED ON WAS THAT THE WOMAN COULD SAY "NO".
UGH ..
UGH ...

AAHH!..
TWITCH
TWITCH
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
AND THAT THE REJECTED MAN SHOULD ACCEPT HIS REJECTION GRACEFULLY.
OOH!
BEFORE THE MEJI PERIOD, JAPAN DIDN'T VALUE VIRGINITY, WESTERN COUNTRIES DID. MISSIONARIES THAT CAME DURING THE WARRING STATES PERIOD WERE SHOCKED TO DISCOVER THIS AND SO RECORDED IT.
PATHETIC
YOU AREN'T DONE YET!
THEREFORE, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN HAVING SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH SEVERAL DIFFERENT MEN HAD NO STIGMA ATTACHED TO IT.
UHHH...
UU.. KUH...
IS SHE FRIGHTENED?
SHE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING YET...
ARE YOU CRYING? I'M.. I'M SORRY!
OOONH...

YOU'RE A VIRGIN, RIGHT?
HUH ?
HA
HA
HA
HA
WHA— WHA—
YOU CAN'T HIDE IT.

I LOVE FRESH MEAT. JUST FOLLOW MY LEAD.
I'VE DE-FLOWERED MANY A YOUNG MAN
YOU HAVE THE SAME TOUCH AS A MAN WHO'S NEVER HAD A WOMAN.


YOU HAVE AT LEAST TWO MORE
PLEASE ....NO MORE.
FINISHED AT THREE, ICHIZO ?
OOH ...

YOU'LL BE OKAY IF THE RIDE CHANGES, RIGHT?
ARE YOU TWO GOING TO PARTICI-PATE, TOO?
FOR SOME-THING ALL WORN OUT A SECOND AGO...
YOU DOG !
UH
TING
OUCH!
I WONDER IF IT WILL FIT...
AA ....
OOH ..
NNNAA!

SUCK
BITE GENTLY EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE ...
ROLL IT AROUND ....
YES... JUST LIKE THAT...
SQUELCH
UP... AND DOWN ...
YES... THAT'S IT.
DON'T LET YOUR HANDS GO IDLE, EITHER.
SLIP
LET'S TAKE THE EDGE OFF FIRST.

AA—!
SO HOT AND STICKY...
SQUEEZE
WHAT IS THIS?
SQUILCH
SHUDDER
SHIVER
OOH ...
KHAAA
FLUSH

DON'T BE EMBARRASSED.
EVERYONE'S LIKE THAT AT FIRST.
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE READY TO GO ON.
NOW HOW ABOUT YOU WORK UP A SWEAT?
THRUST

CHIRP
CHIRP
AAAH!
H-HEY!
HOW'D IT GO?
HOW ABOUT YOU?
I MADE THE TWO DAUGHTERS SCREAM!
DROO
JUMP
スウ
SLIDE
DID YOU JUST RUB IT OUT?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, ZENBE? IF WE HAD THE SISTERS...
JUST WHAT I WOULD EXPECT. HAHAHA HA...
HAHAHA...
MADE HER SCREAM, TOO.
I GOT THE MOTHER'S ROOM—
SO YOU TOOK THEM BOTH ON?

BWAHAHAHAHAHA
THE OTHER... NO...YOU WENT TO THE GRANDMA'S ?
NOD
I FORGOT ABOUT THE OTHER WOMAN WHO LIVES HERE.
DON'T TELL ME HER, TOO...
CLAP
WAAA AAAH!
HEY NOW, ICHIZO... WEREN'T YOU THE ONE SCREAMING?
PEEK
YOU CAN COME AGAIN TONIGHT !
YASU-JIRO ...?
VIRGIN
POP
THOUGH THREE TIMES WAS A LITTLE MUCH
THAT MAN OVER THERE WAS PRETTY GOOD, TOO, FOR A VIRGIN.
THIS IS A TALE FROM A TIME BEFORE WESTERNIZATION— WHEN JAPAN WAS MORE CAREFREE ABOUT SEX.
WHILE THE PRACTICE OF NIGHT VISITS LASTED IN SOME REGIONS UNTIL THE SHOWA PERIOD, AFTER THE WAR IT COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED.

NIGHT VISIT / END

AFTERWORD

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE OF THIS BOOK.

WHEN I FIRST WAS ASKED TO DO A PERIOD PIECE, I WAS NERVOUS BECAUSE I HAD NEVER DONE ONE BEFORE, BUT WHEN I RECEIVED THE BACKGROUND FOR IT, I GOT REALLY INTERESTED! ONCE I STARTED ON IT, I REALIZED THAT THERE WAS A LOT I DIDN'T KNOW AND FELT THE PAIN OF MY OWN IGNORANCE. BUT THAT ALONE MADE IT A WORTHWHILE ENDEAVOR, AND NOW I ENJOY DRAWING KIMONOS AND HORSETAILS.

I AM NOTHING BUT GRATEFUL TO MY EDITOR FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY. (SORRY FOR ALWAYS BARELY MAKING DEADLINES.) ALSO, THANK YOU TO HOSHI CHINATSU, FOR PROVIDING SUCH INTERESTING SCENARIOS. AND ABOVE ALL, THANK YOU TO THE READERS WHO BOUGHT THIS BOOK. I WILL DO MY BEST TO DRAW AN EVEN BETTER BOOK FOR YOU TO ENJOY!

-KAORU HAZUKI

SEX HABITS OF PAST AND PRESENT

THE STATUS OF WHORES DURING THE EDO PERIOD WAS DIFFERENT RELATIVELY RECENTLY, WOMEN WOULD BREASTFEED THEIR BABIES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET AND MEN WOULDN'T THINK IT EMBARRASSING OR AROUSING TO SEE JAPANESE PEOPLE DON'T SEEM TO HAVE THOUGHT OF BREASTS AND BUTTS AS SEXUALLY ATTRACTIVE

COMEDIAN MATSUMOTO HITOSHI SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS A CHILD, OLD WOMEN USED TO WALK AROUND TOPLESS IT WAS A COMMON SIGHT IN MANY AREAS UP UNTIL SOMETIME IN THE LATE 1960S

PICTURES AND DIARIES LEFT BY FOREIGNERS WHO VISITED DURING THE TIME OF THE SHOGUNATE AND THE MEIJI ERA ALSO DEMONSTRATE THE LACK OF CONCERN MIDDLE AGED AND OLDER WOMAN HAD FOR EXPOSING THEIR CHESTS

EROTIC PICTURES FROM THE EDO PERIOD SHOW VERY FEW BARE BREASTS OR BUTTS AMONG THOSE DRAWN BY UTAGAWA KUNIYOSHI, A FEW DO HAVE PICTURES OF WOMAN SHOWING THEIR LEGS HOWEVER, THIS IS MORE LIKE THOSE TODAY WHO HAVE A THIGH FETISH VERSUS BEING ATTRACTED TO THE VAGINA, AND MOST EROTICA DISPLAYED WOMEN'S PRIVATES

JAPANESE CAN LOOK AT A SUMO WRESTLER'S BUTT AND THINK, "IT'S TAUT BECAUSE OF TRAINING," OR "IT'S SAGGY, THEY HAVEN'T BEEN TRAINING ENOUGH," WITHOUT FEELING EMBARRASSED HOWEVER, THIS SEEMS HARD FOR WESTENERS TO DEAL WITH, AS EVEN MANY AMATEUR SUMO WRESTLERS WORE SPATS UNDER THEIR UNIFORMS AS IF TO HIDE THEIR BUTTS

IN MANY COUNTRIES WITH A STRONG CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE, HOMOSEXUALITY IS SEEN AS TABOO, BUT IN JAPAN AT ONE POINT IT WAS WIDELY RECOGNIZED LIKE THE STORIES OF ODA NOBUNAGA AND THE BEAUTIFUL PAGE MORI RANMARU, THE SHOGUN DURING THE WARRING STATES PERIOD BEDDED PARTNERS OF BOTH SEXES THERE IS EVEN A LETTER TAKEDA SHINGEN WROTE TO HIS COUNCILOR KASUGA GENSUKE EXPLAINING HIS INFIDELITY IN 1784, MOUEN MASANAO WROTE A STORY TITLED "O-ISHI HYOU ROKU
YUME-MONOGATARI " AT ONE POINT IN THE STORY, OISHI HYOU ROKU HAS JUST TAKEN ON THE ROLE OF EXORCISING A FOX SPIRIT, AND HIS FRIENDS TELL HIM THAT IF HE SUCCEEDS, THEY'LL INTRODUCE HIM TO A PRETTY BOY FOR THE MORE MALE-ORIENTED SATSUMA CLAN IT SEEMS THAT PRETTY BOYS WERE BETTER REWARDS THAN WOMEN

EVEN IN THE KOUJIEN DICTIONARY, WHILE THE TERM BISHONEN, OR "PRETTY BOY," EXISTS, BISHOJO, OR PRETTY GIRL, DOES NOT THE MAIN CHARACTER OF IHARA SAIKAKU'S WORK "LIFE OF AN AMOROUS MAN," YONOSUKE, SAYS THAT BETWEEN THE AGES OF SEVEN AND 16, HE SLEPT WITH 3,742 WOMEN, AND 725 MEN—NOT A SMALL NUMBER BY ANY MEANS

DURING THE EDO PERIOD PRIEST LUIS FROIS EXPRESSED SHOCK IN HIS RECORDS THAT WOMEN WHO LOST THEIR VIRGINITY BEFORE MARRIAGE WEREN'T SEEN AS IMPURE EUROPEAN VIRGINITY WAS SEEN AS NOBLE, TO THE EXTENT THAT EVEN A UNICORN WOULD BEND ITS KNEE TO A VIRGIN, BUT SUCH A VIEW DID NOT EXIST IN JAPAN

FROM THE TIME BETWEEN THE ADVENT OF THE MEIJI ERA UNTIL AFTER WORLD WAR II, WESTERN CULTURE WAS IMPORTED TO JAPAN, CAUSING GREAT CHANGES TODAY, MANY THINK SUCH IDEAS AND TRAITS AS STRANGE I HOPE TO INTRODUCE IN THESE COLUMNS THE SEXUAL CULTURE OF THE EDO PERIOD

ONE DAY DURING THE SHOWA PERIOD, A FARMER ON THE WAY HOME FROM A DAY'S WORK IN THE FIELD SPIED NUMEROUS COUPLES MAKING LOVE ON AN EMBANKMENT "IF I BUILT A LOVE HOTEL HERE, IT WOULD SURELY PROSPER," HE THOUGHT, AND PUTTING THOUGHT TO ACTION, FOUND HIMSELF WILDLY SUCCESSFUL—MORE THAN HE COULD'VE EVER HOPED AS A FARMER
SO, WERE THERE LOVE HOTELS DURING THE EDO PERIOD? PEOPLE BACK THEN SURELY PREFERRED THECOMFORTS OF THE INDOORS OVER ROCKS AND FIELDS FOR SEX AROUND LAKE SHINOBAZU, THERE WERE SEVERAL DEAI CHAYA, OR RENDEZVOUS TEA HOUSES OF COURSE, THERE WERE MUCH SIMPLER THAN LOVE HOTELS OF TODAY
CHEAPER ONES WERE TWO, MAYBE THREE TATAMI MATS IN SIZE, WITH A BOX PILLOW AND RIPPED UP PAPER ON THE FLOOR INSTEAD OF A FUTON HAIRSTYLES OF THE TIME SO COMPLICATED THAT A WOMAN COULD NOT STYLE IT HERSELF, THUS FAIRLY HIGH HEADRESTS WERE REQUIRED TO KEEP IT FROM BEING UNDONE AS FOR THE TORN PAPER, LIKE TISSUE PAPER IN MODERN LOVE HOTELS, IT HAD A NECESSARY FUNCTION

IF A DEAI CHAYA WAS A CHEAP HOTEL, A LITTLE MORE UPSCALE VERSION MIGHT BE AN UNAGI-YA OR EEL HOUSE LIKE WHEN A MAN AND A WOMAN GO TO EAT YAKINIKU—JAPANESE BBQ—WITHOUT OTHER COMPANIONS, THEY ARE THOUGHT TO BE IN A RELATIONSHIP IF TODAY, THAT COUPLE WENT TO YAKINIKU AND THEN A LOVE HOTEL, IN EDO BOTH WOULD BE FOUND AT THE UNAGI-YA

IN REALLY UPPER CLASS UNAGI-YA, EVEN TODAY, THE MEAL STARTS FROM CHOOSING THE EEL AFTER THE CHOICE IS MADE, THE EEL IS THEN BONED, BROILED WITHOUT SEASONING, AND THEN STEAMED EDO-STYLE WAS TO ADD SAUCE AND THEN GRILL IT THIS OF COURSE, TOOK A LONG TIME SO IF A MAN AND WOMAN APPEARED TOGETHER, THE RESTAURANT PROPRIETORS WOULD CATCH ON QUICKLY AND LEAD THEM TO A ROOM AWAY FROM THE RESTAURANT OR ON THE SECOND FLOOR THE COUPLE WOULD THEN BE LEFT TO THEMSELVES FOR ABOUT AN HOUR WITH SOME SNACKS AND ALCOHOL AND NO INTERRUPTIONS

SHOULD THE MAN WANT TO SHELL OUT FOR MORE MONEY, A SHIBAI CHAYA MIGHT BE USED WHILE THIS REFERS TO THE TEA HOUSE ATTACHED TO A KABUKI THEATRE, THEY ALSO ARRANGED FOR SEATS AT THE THEATER AND CATERED TO VISITORS FROM OUT OF TOWN IN OTHER WORDS, THEY PROVIDED CONCIERGE SERVICES FROM TICKETS TO TAXIS TO DINNER AND A PLAY PACKAGES

ENTERTAINMENT IN EDO WAS FAIRLY LIMITED TO THEATER-GOING BUT KABUKI WAS EXPENSIVE ACCORDING TO THE BOOK MITSUBOU SOU PUBLISHED IN TENBOU 4 (1833), AN UPPER SAJIKI SEAT COULD COST AS MUCH AS 35 SILVER MONME, WHILE A LOWER ONE MIGHT RUN 25 SILVER MONME ONE GOLD RYO EQUALED 60 SILVER MONME WHICH EQUALED 4000 MON, SO IT WAS FAIRLY EXPENSIVE

DURING THE BUNSEI ERA (1818-1829), THE DAILY WAGE FOR A CARPENTER WAS BETWEEN 3 MONME TO 5 MONME PER DAY SO A GOOD SEAT AT KABUKI WOULD MEAN SPENDING ANYWHERE FROM 7 TO 15 DAYS A BOWL OF SOBA COST 16 MON, TICKETS FOR A RAKUGO PERFORMANCE COST BETWEEN 16-28 MON, SO YOU CAN SEE JUST HOW EXPENSIVE A KABUKI PERFORMANCE WAS AND THAT WAS JUST FOR THE TICKETS—SO HOW MUCH MUST IF HAVE COST TO EAT AND DRINK AT THE THEATRE TEA HOUSE?

IT'S PROBABLY THE EQUIVALENT OF BUYING A BOX AT THE OPERA AND GOING TO DINNER AT A 5 STAR RESTAURANT BEFOREHAND—OR THE YOUTHS WHO SCRIMP AND SAVE TO HAVE RESTAURANT AT AN UPPER CLASS RESTAURANT WITH THEIR GIRLFRIENDS, FOLLOWED BY A NIGHT IN A HOTEL SUITE FOR NEW YEAR'S

EDO AND A SELLER'S MARKET FOR WOMEN

WHILE RECENTLY WOMEN HAVE BEGUN MAKING MOVES TO PICK UP MEN, IT IS CONSIDERED MORE NORMAL FOR MEN TO APPROACH WOMEN. IT WAS THE OPPOSITE IN EDO—WOMEN WOULD PROACTIVELY APPROACH MEN INVITATIONS TO DEAI-CHAYA AND UNAGI-YA WERE FROM WOMEN. IF A MAN TRIED TO ASK A WOMAN OUT, HE WOULD BE SHOT DOWN FOR BEING FULL OF HIMSELF.

EVEN DURING NIGHT VISITS, WHERE MEN APPROACHED WOMEN, THE WOMAN HAD THE RIGHT TO SAY "NO" THUS WOMEN GENERALLY LED THE RELATIONSHIPS DURING THIS PERIOD. ADDED TO THIS WAS THE NEWLY FOUNDED CITY OF EDO AND THE DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE NUMBER OF MALES TO FEMALES. WITH THE CITY BUILT UPON BOG AND SEA, MANY ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS FILLED THE CITY, AND THEN THERE WERE THE SAMURAI FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE WHO CAME TO SERVE THEIR LORDS. JUST AS WHEN THE BALANCE BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND CRUMBLES, PRICES CAN SKYROCKET, WHEN HUMANS ARE MADE MUCH OF, THEY GROW PRIDEFUL AND ARROGANT. THIS IS A TRUTH BOTH TIMELESS AND UNIVERSAL. THE WOMAN OF THE HOUSE COULD STAY AT HOME DRINKING SAKE FROM EARLY AFTERNOON, AND SHOULD SHE LIKE THE DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMAN WHO DROPPED BY THAT DAY, SHE MIGHT ASK HIM IN FOR AN AFTERNOON ROMP WHILE HER HUSBAND WAS AT WORK. AFTER ALL, GIVEN THE LIMITED SUPPLY OF WOMEN, EVEN SHOULD HER INFIDELITY BRING ABOUT DIVORCE, THERE WERE PLENTY OF OTHER CANDIDATES FOR HER TO MARRY AGAIN.

HER HUSBAND, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD BE CONSIDERED PATHETIC FOR HAVING HIS WIFE TAKEN AND BECOME A LAUGHINGSTOCK. THE "MIKUDAKE-HAN" OR NOTICE OF SEPARATION HAS OFTEN BEEN HELD UP AS EVIDENCE OF EDO'S MALE DOMINANCE, BUT ACTUALLY IT FUNCTIONED MORE AS "PROOF OF ABILITY TO REMARRY." HENCE THE LINE "WHOMEVER YOU MAY CHOSE TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH FROM THIS MOMENT FORWARD, I SHALL NOT CHANGE MY MIND," WRITTEN IN THE LATTER HALF OF THE DECREE. SIMPLY PUT, THIS MEANS, "AS WE ARE NO LONGER TIED BY THE BONDS OF MARRIAGE, MARRY WHOMEVER YOU LIKE. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME." FOR SAMURAI, IF DIVORCE BECAME CONTESTED AND COULD AFFECT THE CONTINUATION OF A HOUSE, THE HEAD FAMILY FOR THAT HOUSE MIGHT EXACT PENALTIES AGAINST THEM, SO ADULTERY WAS CONSIDERED TABOO. HOWEVER, NOTHING SO STRICT GOVERNED THE COMMON POPULACE. EDO ITES HAVE A SAYING, "FIRES AND FIGHTS ARE THE FLOWERS OF EDO." NO PERSON CELEBRATES THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL THEIR WORLDLY GOODS OR ENJOYS IT WHEN A PERSON BURNS TO DEATH, BUT FIRES OFTEN OCCURRED—TO THE POINT WHERE EDO BECAME FAMOUS FOR IT. FROM AN EMOTIONAL VIEWPOINT, IF IT CAN'T BE AVOIDED, ONE MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY IT.

SIMILARLY, THE PHRASE "BLIND WOMEN AND MEN WITH COLDS" SOUNDS ELEGANT, BUT THERE IS SOME TRUTH IN THAT EYE DISEASES WERE RAMPANT DURING THE TIME. MEN OF THE TIME PREFERRED STRONG-WILLED WOMEN, REFERRING TO THEM AS KYAN. HOWEVER, THIS MAY HAVE BEEN MORE OUT OF NECESSITY RATHER THAN PREFERENCE DUE TO WOMEN HAVING THEIR PICK—SO IF A MAN WANTED ONE, HE'D HAVE TO TAKE WHAT SHE DISHED OUT. GIVEN THE ALREADY SLIM CHANCE OF MARRIAGE, A MAN FOOLISH ENOUGH TO PROCLAIM, "I HATE STRONG-WILLED WOMEN" WOULD LOWER HIS CHANCES EVEN FURTHER. THE MEN OF TODAY WHO GIVE PRESENTS TO GRASPING GIRLFRIENDS BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE OTHER OPTIONS AREN'T ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM THE EDO MEN OF YESTERDAY.

ADULT TOY STORES AND GOODS

IN EDO, BATH HOUSES WERE MIXED. THE SHOGUNATE BANNED THIS SEVERAL TIMES, BUT HAD DIFFICULTIES ENFORING IT. THIS DIFFERS GREATLY FROM PRACTICES OF TODAY, BUT THERE WERE OTHER SIMILARITIES. EDO HAD LOVE HOTELS AND ALSO ADULT TOY STORES. AT YAKENBORI IN RYOGOKU, THE STORE YOTSUME-YA SPECIALIZED IN POTIONS AND UNGUENTS FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES. IT OPENED 1626, DURING THE REIGN OF TOKUGAWA IEMITSU.

DURING THE PEACEFUL EDO PERIOD, THE COMMON CLASSES CLAMORED FOR ENTERTAINMENT, BUT THERE WAS LITTLE TO BE FOUND—CAUSING SEX TO BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR INDUSTRIES.

WITHIN THE COMIC, DILDOS APPEAR IN SEVERAL PLACES, BUT THE DOUBLE DILDO FOR LESBIANS ALSO EXISTED AT THE TIME. JUST LIKE THE MODERN EQUIVALENTS, IT TOOK THE FORM OF A DOUBLE-HEADED PENIS, LEADING TO ITS NAME, "FOR BOTH." OF COURSE, IF THERE WAS A TOY FOR WOMEN, THEN TOYS FOR MEN EXISTED AS WELL.

THE SAMURAIS USED THE AZUMA, A BAG WITH VELVET SEWN ON THE INSIDE THAT TOOK THE SAME SHAPE AS THEIR SHEATH-COVERS. THERE WAS ALSO THE POPULAR CHASEN MADE FROM STIFFENED CLOTH. THERE WERE MANY SAMURAI FROM OUTLYING AREAS WHO CAME TO EDO FOR THEIR PERIOD OF SERVICE, SO THEY MUST HAVE NEEDED TOOLS FOR MASTURBATION, EVEN IF THEY WERE DISGUISED AS NECESSITIES.

DILDOS WEREN'T JUST FOR WOMEN OR LESBIANS. FOR MAN LACKING IN VIGOR, THERE WAS THE TASUKEBUNE (RESCUE SHIP) TO HELP THEM OUT. THERE WERE ALSO ITEMS LIKE THE HIGOZUISU WHICH HAD DRIED PEEL FROM THE STALKS OF A RELATIVE OF THE TARO WRAPPED AROUND IT. ITEMS MADE OF LEATHER OR TORTOISE SHELL WERE GREATLY LOVED AS WELL.

IN THE "OMOROU-CHUUKI" OF ASAHI BUNZAEMON OF THE OWARI CLAN, THERE IS THE STORY OF TSUZUKI HANSUKE, WHO MOLESTS HIS STEP-DAUGHTER. WELL INTO HIS SIXTIES, HANSUKE CONTINUED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HER EVEN AFTER SHE WAS ENGAGED. HOWEVER, HER FIANCÉE FOUND OUT AND ATTACKED HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ACT.

PANICKED, HANSUKE RAN AWAY, DESCRIBED IN THE "OMOROU-CHUUKI" AS A "HAIRY 60-YEAR OLD MAN WITH A DILDO DANGLING FROM HIS NETHER REGIONS, CRYING INTO BOTH OF HIS HANDS." THE COMICAL SCENE IS REMINISCENT OF THE GOSSIP COLUMNS OR EROTIC LITERATURE OF TODAY.

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